

Shares suffer record £4bn one-day drop

Almost £4,000 million was wiped from share values on the stock market as the FT 30-share index suffered its biggest one-day fall.

The London stock market suffered its biggest ever one-day fall yesterday as almost £4 billion was wiped from the value of quoted shares.

The FT index of top 30 shares tumbled a record 32.1 to 1,233.7. Its previous biggest one-day fall - in terms of points - was on July 8, this year, when it fell 30.7.

The index has fallen steadily throughout the summer, worried by the effects of a weak pound, high interest rates, a falling oil price and the uncertain political outlook.

The broader based FT-SE 100 managed to restrict its fall to 21.2 at 1,540.4.

The selling was described as heavy, with one leading stockbroker commenting: "The traffic is all one way at the moment and it looks as though we have still further to fall."

Jobbers were forced to mark prices sharply lower to deter the sellers. Losses among blue chips extended to double figures. Among the sectors hardest hit were the insurance

composites, engineers and electricals after the Government's refusal to allow GEC to proceed with its £1,200 million bid for Plessey.

The news clipped GEC 6p to 190p and Plessey 5p to 195p. Oil shares were also badly hit despite Tuesday's agreement to limit oil output

agricultural and commercial vehicle markets and steel stockholding business. The news shocked the stock market and the GKN share price responded with a fall of 58p to 288p.

Other engineering companies were hit by the news from GKN. Lucas Industries tumbled 14p to 516p and Hawker Siddeley 26p to 491p.

As a result, marketmen will be keeping a close eye on interim figures today from TI Group, the Creta cookers to Raleigh bicycle manufacturer.

The City is also becoming increasingly sceptical about Britain's economic growth as more and more industrial companies continue to turn in disappointing figures.

Last month, ICI reported second-quarter figures below original City estimates. It may also cast doubt on the success and timing of the Trustee Savings Bank flotation scheduled for next month and the privatization of British Gas expected in November.

British Gas will be the biggest flotation ever undertaken on the stock market.



Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and a royal corgi travelling with her, prepare to board a flight at Heathrow yesterday for her Highland home, the Castle of Mey.

Sinn Fein MP backs death threats

The leader of the political wing of the Provisional IRA yesterday defended their death threats to contractors servicing the security forces as the Government anxiously awaited its effect on the business community in Northern Ireland.

Mr Gerry Adams, Provisional Sinn Fein MP for West Belfast, defended the threat of the military wing saying that they had made it clear that the firms involved were assisting the British military presence and unless they stopped they would find themselves "in the firing line."

Asked about the effects on unemployment he said: "It's going to be very, very marginal with a small section of the business class that is growing rich on the backs of the struggle and which is actively collaborating."

Early indications were that despite the withdrawal of three firms supplying fuel, bread and garden produce to the police, many of the province's businessmen were refusing to be panicked by the terrorists' latest attempt at intimidation.

However, British Telecom has advised its 4,700 employees to take extra precautions about their personal safety and other companies have attempted to reassure frightened workers.

But the threats against building contractors have already had serious effects on the building programme of the Royal Ulster Constabulary with work at a standstill at Enniskillen and a new base in Londonderry, work just resumed on a station at Larne and a maintenance contract ended at RAF Aldergrove.

A number of other bases have been damaged in terrorist attacks at Ballygown, Broughshane, Tynan and Carrickmore while the Royal Engineers have completed repairs at Toomebridge in Co Antrim.

Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the Trades Union Congress joined widespread business, political and union condemnation of the threat. Mr Tim King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, considered the options open to the Government.

He had talks with Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable of the RUC and General Sir ... Continued on page 2, col 7

Pretoria retaliates against Zambia

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South Africa yesterday stepped up retaliatory economic pressure on Zambia and Zimbabwe, the two most black African proponents of sanctions against Pretoria, by carrying out time-consuming border checks on road cargo.

The executive director of the South African Association of Freight Forwarders, Mr Alan Cowell, told The Star of Johannesburg that trucks and lorries were being unpacked and inspected at the Beit Bridge post between South Africa and Zimbabwe and at Botswana border posts.

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Dean Colesky, confirmed that checks were being made, maintaining that they were for "a statistical survey," and only affected goods from Zimbabwe and Zambia destined for export through South African ports. Trucks, he said, were being delayed for a maximum of 24 hours.

Similar border controls - ostensibly for security reasons - were imposed by Pretoria last January on traffic entering Lesotho. Their effect was tantamount to that of an economic blockade, and helped to bring about the overthrow of the Government of Chief Leabua Jonathan.

At a press conference last Tuesday, the South African Foreign Minister, Mr R.F. "Pik" Botha, served warning of possible border checks and announced that an import levy would "soon" be imposed on goods passing through South Africa to other countries in the region.

Asked yesterday for details about the levy, Mr Colesky told The Times that it took the form of a cash deposit which had to be paid before goods

Reagan wins battle on protection Bill

From Bailey Morris, Washington

In an important victory for President Reagan, the US House of Representatives yesterday narrowly defeated restrictive textile legislation. The Administration had described it as the most protectionist Bill since the great depression.

House members failed by only three votes to override President Reagan's earlier veto of the legislation in a political confrontation that is expected to be fought again in the November elections.

The final vote in the House was 276 in favour of the veto override and 149 opposed. A two-thirds majority, in this case 279 votes out of the 419 members present, was required to override the President.

After a frantic week of heavy lobbying by the White House, the free traders in Congress prevailed in the closely followed vote, which is expected to set the tone of other trade conflicts expected over the next difficult months when the record US trade deficit is expected to grow.

Members speaking against the Bill said passage of the legislation would send a signal to the world that the United States was turning protectionist much as it did in the 1930s, when it passed the Smoot-Hawley legislation, which resulted in global trade retaliation.

Drop in days lost through strikes

By Richard Thomson

The number of working days lost through strikes in Britain last year was less than a quarter of the total in 1984 and nearly half the average for the previous 10 years, the Department of Employment said yesterday.

The falling trend has continued this year, with the number of working days lost in the 12 months to May dropping to the lowest level since 1967.

The DnE's monthly Employment Gazette said that the sharp drop in lost working days was partly attributable to the implementation of the Trade Union Act in September 1984 which tightened the laws surrounding strike action. However, the figures, as in 1984, are overshadowed by the miners' strike, which ended in March last year. It was by far the largest contributor to the number of working days lost in 1985.

However, most stoppages in Britain last year lasted fewer than three days. Most were caused by redundancy fears but the second most common cause was pay.

There were 6.4 million days lost through stoppages last year compared with 27.1 million in 1984. The miners' strike accounted for 4 million, or 63 per cent. Without it, the number of days lost would have been down to the mid-1960s level.

Over the 10 years to 1984 the average number of days lost amounted to 11.1 million and during the 12 months to May 1986, the Gazette reports a provisional total of 2.4 million days lost, the lowest number for nearly 20 years.

Stoppages recorded last year fell to 903, the lowest level since 1938 when 883 stoppages were recorded. But the figures include strikes involving small numbers of people as well as mass industrial action and do not necessarily bear a direct relationship to the working days lost.

After the coal strike, the largest industrial stoppage during 1985 was the teachers' strike over pay in England, Scotland and Wales, which accounted for more than 800,000 days lost. Other industries heavily hit by stoppages included transport equipment and food, drink and tobacco. The least strike-prone were textiles, footwear and clothing.

At the same time there was an expansion in the workforce last year, estimated to be 192,000 million, down from the growth of 512,000 in 1984. The DoE expects the level of claimant unemployment - those registered as unemployed - to remain stable.

According to DoE statistics, the growth in the labour force over the past 15 years is due to a 1.7 million increase in the number of women working.

Thatcher looks for sharper image

By Philip Webster Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister is asking Cabinet ministers to sharpen up television and other public appearances as part of a series of pre-election planning moves put in hand yesterday.

Mr Norman Tebbit, the party chairman, announced the appointment of a new Conservative Party director of presentation and promotion, Mr Harvey Thomas, whose job will be to ensure that the Prime Minister and her ministerial colleagues get the most out of media appearances and nationwide tours.

Mr Thomas is being moved from his present position as director of communications to enable Mrs Thatcher to bring in a new image-making chief for the election run-up - an appointment regarded as of the highest importance by Mrs Thatcher and those close to her. An announcement is expected during the next few weeks.

It was said yesterday that a decision has yet to be made and several prominent candidates in the advertising industry have been considered.

Mrs Thatcher is looking for someone like Sir Gardn Reece, her image-builder before the Tories' 1979 election victory.

The splitting of the presentation job into two is an indication of the Prime Minister's reservations about the way the party's image has been portrayed so far under Mr Tebbit's chairmanship. The announcement from Conservative Central Office yesterday said Mr Thomas's appointment was being made "with the agreement of the Prime Minister."

Mr Thomas, aged 46, a former campaign manager and cheerleader for Mr Billy Graham, the evangelist, will help ministers spruce up their television performances. A major drive will come at the Tory conference in Bournemouth in October. His other main task is the staging of party conferences.

But his appointment seems set to raise a few hackles. Mr Thomas will be working closely with the Civil Service staff of ministers. The announcement said: "Political appointees are not always welcome in such territory."

Central Office said: "The post is a new one and reflects the greater emphasis which the party organization will be giving to campaigning and presentation in the run-up to the general election."

Mr Thomas said the new post has to be seen in terms of political evangelism. "It is crusading, crusading for the party and the campaign for the election."

By Michael Clark, Stock Market Correspondent

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during September and October in 16 million barrels a day. Dealers estimate that the proposals will only have a temporary effect on the depressed oil price.

But it was interim figures from GKN, one of Britain's biggest manufacturing companies, that really hit confidence in share prices.

Pretax profits for the first six months of the year rose from £70.5 million to £74.5 million, but Mr Trevor Holdsworth, chairman, gave a warning that full year profits were unlikely to match the £133 million the group made in 1985.

Mr Holdsworth blamed a sharp downturn in the group's agricultural and commercial vehicle markets and steel stockholding business.

The news shocked the stock market and the GKN share price responded with a fall of 58p to 288p. This wiped about £133 million from the group's total capitalization and now values it at about £683 million.

Other engineering companies were hit by the news from GKN. Lucas Industries tumbled 14p to 516p and Hawker Siddeley 26p to 491p.

As a result, marketmen will be keeping a close eye on interim figures today from TI Group, the Creta cookers to Raleigh bicycle manufacturer.

The City is also becoming increasingly sceptical about Britain's economic growth as more and more industrial companies continue to turn in disappointing figures.

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He had talks with Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable of the RUC and General Sir ... Continued on page 2, col 7

Whitehall in petrol price fight

By David Young Energy Correspondent

The Government is to continue its campaign of subtle pressure on the major oil companies to hold petrol prices down to keep the Retail Price Index (RPI) at its present low level despite rising world crude oil prices.

Treasury revenues will rise as North Sea oil prices go up and so increase the Chancellor's scope for tax cuts in his next Budget, in March, 1987. But petrol prices are an important component of the RPI and the Government knows that it is this index which annual wage demands and many index-linked pension payments and unit trust dividends are based.

The Treasury regards the impact of petrol prices, lorry diesel, home heating oil and industrial fuels on the RPI as being as important as higher mortgage rates.

Following the March Budget the Government suggested that the then current profit levels which the oil companies were making - subsequently borne out in their annual profit figures issued in April - meant that they could absorb the increased duty on a gallon of petrol.

The oil companies objected, but market forces later meant that prices dropped to the levels they were before the Budget.

The Government now takes the view that while the oil companies may have lost money on their exploration and production from the North Sea because of the lower world oil price, their modernized refineries have

found two hire cars used in the attack abandoned at the near by city of Limassol.

The cars had been hired on Saturday by two men with Lebanese passports named as Mr Elias Bitar, aged 35, and Mr Malik Nazban, aged 23.

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GEC's bid for Plessey is blocked

By Teresa Poole

The General Electric Company's proposed £1.2 billion takeover of Plessey has been blocked, after causing a split in the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said yesterday he accepted in full the majority recommendation of the commission that the acquisition would be against the public interest.

However, the commission report saw benefits in rationalization of the two companies' digital telephone exchange businesses without a full merger of the two companies.

It said rationalization would give better opportunities for exports and would improve the prospect of financing the development of future exchange systems.

Mr Colin Baillien, a Commission member, criticized the majority report for not giving enough weight to the international nature of the markets for both telecommunications and defence electronics.

He said the merger would not be against the public interest and added: "To take an excessively purist line about a small loss of domestic competition is to perpetuate the balkanization of an important sector of British industry."

Mr Derek Roberts, joint deputy managing director at GEC, said the decision was harmful to the UK economy in that it would inhibit the formation of a company better able to compete in world

markets for both telecommunications and defence electronics.

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Children hurt

Four people were seriously injured, three of them children, and 10 others suffered minor injuries when two carriages of a miniature steam train packed with holiday-makers overturned at the Thursford steam organ museum near Fakenham, North Norfolk.

Sydney deluge

Six people were killed in Sydney, Australia, when the city was hit by the worst storms recorded there. Thirteen inches fell in 24 hours.

Table with 2 columns: Home News, Overseas, Sports, etc. and their respective page numbers.

Cyprus gunmen known

Nicosia (AP) - Police have established the identities of two of the terrorists who attacked the Royal Air Force base at Akrotiri on Sunday.

Police sources yesterday said the identities of the two men were traced after police

found two hire cars used in the attack abandoned at the near by city of Limassol.

Duty-free not always such a bargain

From Jonathan Brande Brussels

Let the buyer beware: duty-free goods in Europe's international airports are not always bargains.

TWA grounds Athens flights due to slump

Athens - TWA, the American airline, announced yesterday that it was suspending operations in and out of Athens indefinitely from today because of economic problems and a labour dispute (Mario Modiano writes).

Drop in days lost through strikes

The number of working days lost through strikes in Britain last year was less than a quarter of the total in 1984 and nearly half the average for the previous 10 years, the Department of Employment said yesterday.

Premier Loan advertisement with various offers like unconditional payment guarantee, free redundancy cover, free life insurance, no fees or charges, low cost now APR only 18.5%, and freefone-freepost service.

Police in nationwide inquiry over alleged £8m home loans fraud

By Mark Ellis

An alleged mortgage fraud involving home loans worth up to £8 million is being investigated by Thames Valley Police and it was revealed yesterday that a solicitor interviewed by detectives has resigned from his practice.

A report is being prepared for the Director of Public Prosecutions after months of inquiries into claims that applications for house mortgages were submitted to building societies all over Britain with fake legal documents and involving fictitious families. Police refused to name the solicitor from the Thames Valley area, but said they had interviewed a letting agent from Berkshire, an insurance broker from Hampshire, an accountant from Berkshire and a mortgage broker from London.

London and the Thames Valley are said to be involved and the total amount of loan money is estimated to be almost £8 million. A Thames Valley police spokesman said: "Our inquiries are taking us all over the country and we have collected a mountain of paperwork and forms, which we are now studying and photocopying. It is a very complex inquiry and it will take us several weeks to complete. We shall then submit a report to the DPP."

No one has been charged but the police say prosecutions are likely to follow when inquiries are completed. The investigation began in November last year and involves mortgage applications dating back to January 1985. The alleged fraud is claimed to involve false mortgage applications, using fictitious names, to various building societies, but the houses involved were real and some had unsuspecting families living in them.

Other properties were genuinely being sold, but it is claimed false applications for mortgages were running parallel to real requests for loans. Building societies did not discover the alleged fraud because loan forms were backed by documents and surveys. A spokesman for the Building Societies Association said lenders would not notice false claims as the word of a solicitor would be accepted without checks. He said building societies suffered negligible losses through fraud as in most cases they are able to recover the money through repossession of property or retrieving the advance.

Masons deny Stalker link

By Peter Davenport

Officials of the freemasons society, accused in the past of obsessive secrecy, called a press conference yesterday to deny any involvement by their organization in the Stalker case.

They were also concerned at allegations that Mr Norman Briggs, chairman of the Greater Manchester Police Authority and thus closely involved in the Stalker case, had been a freemason. Mr Briggs, a Labour councillor, collapsed and died a week after the allegations were first published. They were strongly denied yesterday by his family and the freemasons.

Yesterday, Mr Colin Gregory, provincial grand secretary of the East Lancashire Province of the freemasons which has 17,000 members, denied that the organization had been involved in any way in the Stalker case. He said that "from about the third week in June the media has said to itself 'Ah! It must be the freemasons. They are responsible for the situation in which Mr Stalker finds himself.'"

Man dies at Boy George's house

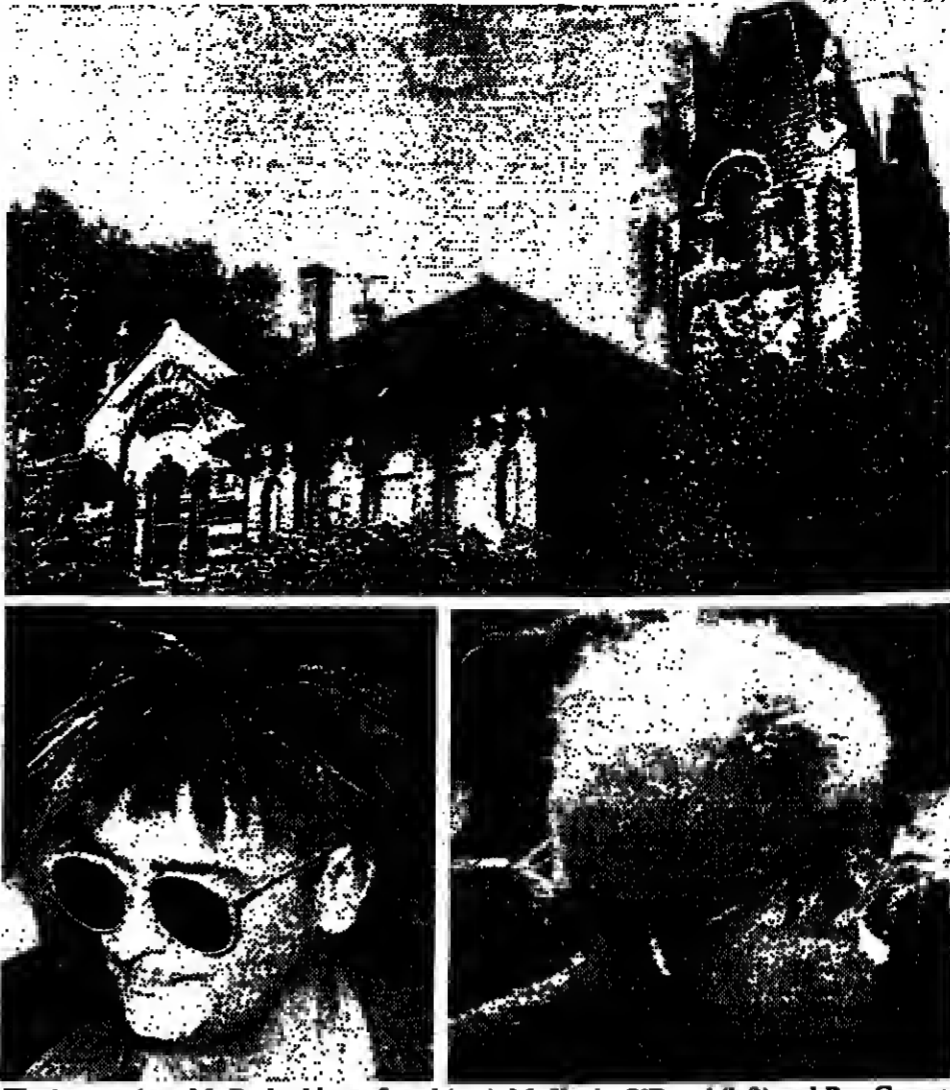
By Michael Horsnell

Boy George, the pop singer who has undergone treatment for heroin addiction, was awaiting police questioning last night after the death of an American musician and songwriter at his home in Hampstead, north London.

Michael Rudetski, aged 27, from New York, was found dead on the lounge floor by Mr Kevin O'Dowd, the singer's brother, early yesterday, less than two days after arriving in Britain to help Boy George work on new songs. An inquest will be opened today at St Pancras coroner's court after a post mortem examination at St Pancras mortuary revealed that the young keyboard player died from respiratory failure due to an intake of drugs.

Police said that the finding was subject to substances being taken from the body for analysis. A spokesman added: "The death is not being treated as suspicious at this stage. Members of the family will be questioned and Boy George is a member of the family. No one is being sought. No one has been arrested and no one is in custody."

It is likely that the singer, who was not present at the house in Well Road the night of Mr Rudetski's death, will be questioned at his other London home in Abercorn Close, St John's Wood.



The house where Mr Rudetski was found (top), Mr Kevin O'Dowd (left) and Boy George (right) in the west end.

Minister faces quiz on murder case man

Mr Alan Dukes, the Irish Minister for Justice, was yesterday ordered to provide the High Court in Dublin with reasons for the continued detention of a man wanted in Belfast on terrorist charges.

The case arises out of evidence from Harry Kirkpatrick, the Irish National Liberation Army "supergrass". John O'Reilly, aged 26, of Eliza Street, Belfast, was arrested in the Irish Republic last October. A local district court later ruled that he should be extradited to Belfast to face accusations of conspiracy to murder and cause an explosion.

Mr Rex Mackey, counsel for Mr O'Reilly, claimed in the High Court that his client's arrest and detention in the high security prison at Portlaoise, Co Laois, was unlawful. He said extradition warrants issued against Mr O'Reilly by Belfast crown court in January 1985 were defective.

Mr Justice John Blayney directed the Justice Minister to explain why Mr O'Reilly was being held and adjourned the case for a week. Mr O'Reilly has been charged in Belfast with conspiring to murder Mr Kenneth Shimeld, a Civil Servant, and cause an explosion.

Thatcher will have sling for month

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister was recovering quickly last night after a successful hour-long operation on her right hand. Mrs Margaret Thatcher had surgery at 8am yesterday for Dupuytren's contracture, the condition which has been pulling the small finger of her right hand into the palm.

By mid-afternoon she was reading government papers and initiating them with her non-writing left hand. The operation at the private King Edward VII Hospital for officers in central London was performed by Mr Donal Brooks, a consultant surgeon. Downing Street said that Mrs Thatcher's medical advisers were satisfied with the way the operation had gone. She was making good progress.

Mrs Thatcher's staff were keeping a tally of bouquets from well-wishers which has passed 20 by late afternoon. She is expected to stay in hospital until tomorrow.

Peacock to press for pay as you view TV

By Gavin Bell, Arts Correspondent

Members of the Peacock committee on broadcasting will urge Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, to take the first technical steps towards "pay as you view" television, at a meeting early next month.

The meeting coincides with active government consideration of the Peacock recommendations for creating a free market broadcasting system dictated by the consumer. Committee members said yesterday they hoped to persuade Mr Hurd to press ahead with the purely technical preparations for cable and satellite networks, while some of their more controversial recommendations were being evaluated.

The first step advocated by the Peacock report was for all new television sets sold or rented in the UK to be adapted to receive direct subscription services by 1988. About 18 per cent of sets now being sold already have the special sockets and associated electronics. The cost is estimated at £25, but viewers would also need a decoder, costing about £50. The aim is to give subscribers freedom of choice between any number of programmes, beamed directly into their homes by satellite and cable networks.

The initial phase would also involve creating a national fibre optic grid for a multiplicity of television and business communications. Mr Samuel Brittan, a committee member and assistant editor of the Financial Times, said: "I will be suggesting to Mr Hurd that the pay socket and fibre optic recommendations be implemented quickly." He would also be putting the case for increasing the proportion of programmes supplied by independent producers, in spite of opposition from the BBC and the independent television companies.

Sinn Fein MP defends Provos' death threats

Continued from page 1

Richard Pascoe, General Officer commanding in the province and pledged that all steps would be taken to ensure repairs were carried out to security bases.

Government and industrialists is that while they recognize the enormous worry the threats have caused they do not wish to give more publicity to the Provisionals or to breath defiance at the terrorists for fear of provoking violent attacks.

Before travelling to Dublin where he had talks with Dr Garret FitzGerald, Mr King appealed to the community to reject the threats from a "small bunch of thugs and terrorists who are increasingly isolated." Leading industrialists in the province will discuss the threat and its implications at a meeting on Monday but it is clear that organizations representing business and the trade unions are being extremely cautious in comments they make on the issue.

The Government accepts that it is impossible to provide security for everyone now under threat, though officials have been given a list of men prepared to carry out the work by the Democratic Unionist Party. Mr Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the DUP, said: "There will be many individuals presently unemployed who will say to themselves 'I'm prepared to stand up to the Provos'."

Two share lead in chess titles

By Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent

After eight rounds of the British Chess Championship at Southampton, grandmasters Jonathan Speelman and Jonathan Mestel are leading with 6½ points each. International master Daniel King is third with 6 points, half a point ahead of grandmaster Murray Chandler, international master Glenn Flear, Neil McDonald, Michael Adams and Dovaki Prasad.

Drugs ruse to boost grouse

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

Pills disguised as grit may be used to persuade grouse to swallow drugs which could tackle the decline of Britain's most famous native wild game bird.

The drugs have already worked in experimental efforts to control worm infestations. Worms are among the main threats to this year's shooting season, which begins next Tuesday on the "Glorious Twelfth".

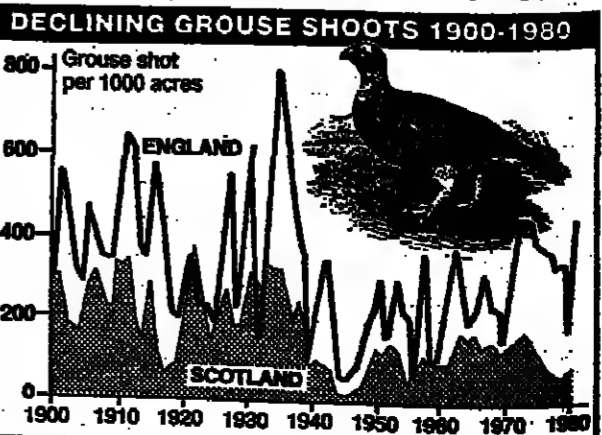
Worm infestation can damage the lining of the gut and make it harder for the birds to absorb the nutrients necessary to survive. Worm eggs reach the ground in grouse droppings, and once hatched the young worms climb to the tips of the heather where they are eaten alive by the grouse.

The pills are described by Dr Peter Hudson, principal biologist with the North of England Grouse Research Project, in a report about a series of grouse experiments done since 1975. The Game Conservancy says 1975 was "the last good year for grouse".

But there is often so much grit about that it would be hard to make sure that the birds would find the pills, which would have to be proof against being dissolved by rain but capable of steady digestion.

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Wells brings back 1924 Paris fashion

Growing concern over computer sabotage by disgruntled staff

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

British security experts are becoming increasingly concerned about a wave of computer sabotage cases occurring at the hands of disgruntled employees, which have caused irreparable damage worth millions of pounds to computer systems, resulting in some companies going bankrupt.

In these instances a company's computer system is illicitly programmed with damaging commands which are obeyed long after the "saboteur" has left the company's employment. Typically the illegal programs are triggered at a particular time or when a set of circumstances occur.

These logic time bombs, as they are now termed, can inflict such serious damage on companies that they go out of business. Recent incidents of this novel form of sabotage have destroyed valuable company records, sales invoicing files, lists of clients and other fundamental information for running a modern business.

According to Dr Ken Wong, computer security expert from

within Scotland Yard to encourage prosecution, but still much is kept secret.

A more sophisticated form of the logic time bomb has just been unveiled in the United States. This type of sabotage is called a computer virus - the computer is programmed so that the illicit instructions can themselves generate further illicit and damaging instructions.

Reports this week from the United States claim that the computer networks which control everything from banking to air traffic control are vulnerable to attack from terrorists or saboteurs using these methods, although no occurrences were reported.

A recently-published report from a group of security experts attached to Georgetown University in Washington concluded that both military computer networks and the automated banking networks, where millions of dollars are transferred electronically around the world in seconds, are open to "catastrophic collapse".

Jealousy denied by games mistress

Jeane Scott, a physical education teacher, denied that she felt jealous of the relationship between her lover, the lesbian love triangle trial at the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

She also denied any sexual relationship with either woman, a detective told the jury.

Miss Scott is alleged to have attacked Miss Susan Craker with a claw hammer because she discovered she had slept with her lover, Mrs Debbie Fox.

Miss Craker, aged 35, who was deputy head of Slough and Eton Secondary School at the time, is now crippled and brain damaged.

Miss Scott, aged 30, of Croft Hill Road, Farham Royal, Buckinghamshire, denies causing and inflicting grievous bodily harm on Miss Craker in August last year.

Detective Constable Joseph McGabhan said that when he questioned Miss Scott she denied being jealous of the relationship between Mrs Fox and Miss Craker.

When he asked her if there was a sexual relationship between her and either of the two women she allegedly raped, she replied: "No, I am seeing a married man."

At the time of the attack Miss Scott said she and Mrs Fox were spending the weekend at Miss Craker's home in Barnet, Hertfordshire. The passion had gone out of Miss Scott's affair with Mrs Fox.

Mrs Fox had recently slept with Miss Craker and when Miss Scott found out she was upset. She had also appealed to Miss Craker to give up the romance, but the jury has been told, she said she would not be intimidated.

Det Con McGabhan said he

Man faces six murder charges

A man aged 23 who faces three murder charges, including two in Stockwell, south London, appeared in court yesterday accused of murdering a further three old people and attempting to murder a fourth.

Kenneth Erskine was remanded in custody by South Western magistrates in London until August 13, but will not appear in court until August 27. There was no application for bail.

The hearing took less than a minute and the charges were not read out. It was Mr Erskine's third appearance in court since last week. He was remanded into police custody on the previous occasions, but yesterday was remanded to prison.

Mr Erskine faced four new charges yesterday. They were: that on June 28 at Somerville Hastings House, Stockwell, he murdered Mr Valentine Gleim, aged 84, and at the same place and time he murdered Mr Zbigniew Szabrawa, aged 94; that on or before April 9 at West Hill Road, Putney, south-west London, he murdered Miss Irene Emms, aged 78; that on June 27, in Stockwell, he attempted to murder a man aged 73.

At a previous hearing he was charged with the murders of Mrs Janet Cockett, aged 67, of Overton Road Estate, Stockwell, last May; and Mr William Downs, aged 74, of the same estate, last month. He was also charged with the murder of Mr William Carmen, aged 82, of Clephane Road, Islington, north London.

Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

More private houses built

Private house building is increasing and the forecast looks promising, according to figures from the National House-Building Council.

The latest figures show that starts in the second quarter of 1986 are 13 per cent higher than for the same period last year and during the first six months are 8 per cent up.

The total starts for the first six months is 91,700, while completions during the same period are 81,500, 8 per cent up on last year.

Mr Basil Dean, director-general of the NHBC, said the late spring may have delayed some starts until the second quarter, "but the good quarterly figures are backed up by the completions figures for the quarter and the half year."

"It begins to look likely that our prediction of 150,000 starts for the year will prove to have been over-cautious."

House-building figures from the Department of the Environment show that in June 1986, the provisional estimate of starts in the public and private sectors is 78,500 compared with 17,800 in June 1985, while completions numbered 16,200 compared with 15,500 in June last year.

In the second quarter, total starts on a seasonally adjusted basis were 7 per cent up on the first quarter and 6 per cent up on the second quarter of 1985.

Wells brings back 1924 Paris fashion

Alan Wells looked, on his own admission, "like something out of the 1924 Olympic Games" (Pat Butcher writes).

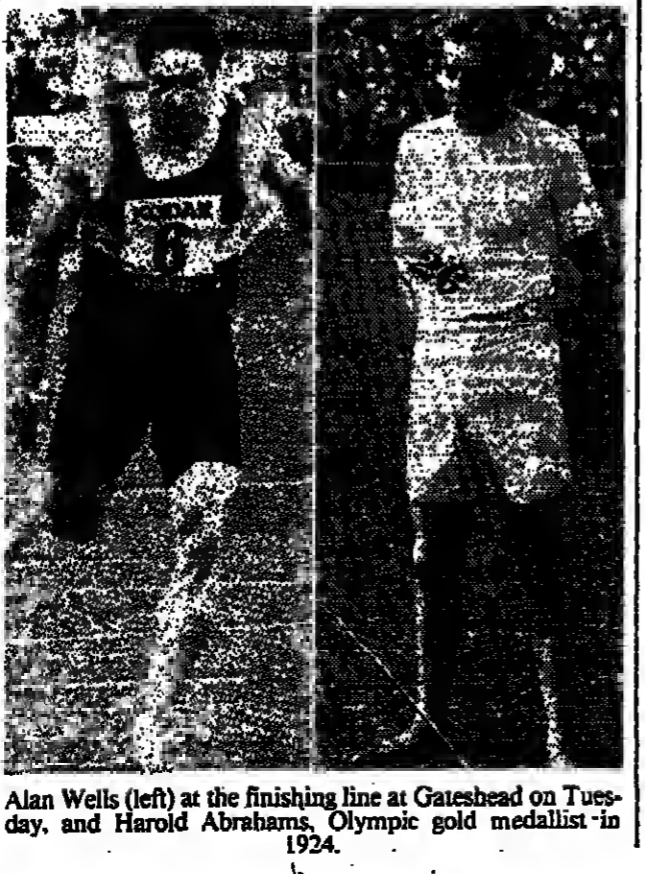
That was a doubly appropriate appraisal of the retrograde fashion in running shorts that Wells, the 1980 Olympic 100 metres champion, was wearing in Gateshead on Tuesday.

For it was in the 1924 Olympics in Paris, background to the Oscar-winning *Chariots of Fire* that Harold Abrahams became the first, and only other, Briton to win the Olympic sprint title.

But a closer inspection of Wells' "shorts" revealed that they were not the baggy Abrahams-style, but cyclists' skin tight pants.

Wells was wearing them for a lot more than their shock value. He was trying to protect the fragile hamstring which had kept him out of the Commonwealth Games.

Athletics, page 24



Alan Wells (left) at the finishing line at Gateshead on Tuesday, and Harold Abrahams, Olympic gold medalist in 1924.



"The Scrabs", a pop group made up of three prison officers and three inmates serving life sentences at Wormwood Scrubs Prison, has made a recording, profits from which will go to Ethiopian famine relief and to needy pensioners in west London (Photograph: Suresh Karadia)

Societies preferred by buyers

More young people would prefer to use a building society for house conveyancing than a solicitor, according to a survey published by The Building Societies Association (BSA) today (Christopher Warman writes).

The survey shows that, if costs were equal, 50 per cent of people aged 20-24 would be likely to use a building society for conveyancing compared with 33 per cent using a solicitor and 12 per cent a bank. For other age groups up to 54, the building society is popular, while overall the choice is 38 per cent for building societies, 40 per cent for solicitors and 12 per cent for banks.

The figures emerge from market research which examines the changing market for house-buying services, and looks forward to the implementation of the Building Societies Act which will allow societies to offer a house-buying package including estate agency services, conveyancing, structural surveys, arranging insurance and personal loans.

Forty-one per cent of respondents said they would use a building society for estate agency services, compared with 26 per cent choosing estate agents, and 28 per cent would use a society to arrange insurance, rising to 43 per cent in the 20-24 age group. For a personal loan, 26 per cent would use a society, rising to 43 per cent in the 20-24 age group.

Mr Mark Boleat, deputy secretary general of the Association, said: "People find house purchase a daunting process. The survey confirms that building societies are well placed to offer a package of house-buying services."

Teachers to give warning on Aids

Every primary and secondary school, it says, should develop a sex education policy, with parents being given a chance to comment on the teaching materials used.

Furthermore, teachers should warn pupils against the emotional and physical risks of promiscuity in any instruction, emphasizing the significance of moral values. In giving advice, teachers should not "trespass on the proper exercise of parental rights".

The circular also states that "the circumstances in which the Law Lords considered it might be justifiable for a doctor to offer contraceptive advice and treatment to a girl under 16 without knowledge and consent of her parents do not have a parallel in school education".

The document was greeted favourably by Mr David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers.

Boy's '18 months of cruelty'

Darwyn Day, a stern father, subjected the son of the woman with whom he was living to 18 months of cruelty at their home in Cotswold, Gloucestershire, Gloucester Crown Court was told yesterday.

He made Craig Day, aged four, stand on a chair for long periods with his hands above his head as a punishment, the court was told.

Mr Eifion Winrow Thomas, for the prosecution, said Mr Day hit the boy as he stood perched on the chair.

When the boy's mother reported the incident to the police they found bruises down the child's right hand side.

Mr Day, aged 21, of Doverow Avenue, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, denies charges of assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

Family's 'insane' dilemma

A homeless family who want to leave their £165-a-week bed and breakfast guest house for a £40-a-week bedsit have been told they cannot because it is too expensive.

An assembly between the DHSS and their local council means that taxpayers have to pick up a bill four times larger than necessary to keep a family of four in accommodation they do not want.

Mr Bernard Dawkins, an unemployed mechanic, and his wife Valerie, both aged 47, found themselves homeless after moving to Hemel Hempstead in search of work and then returning to their home town of Newton Abbot, South Devon a few months later.

Family's 'insane' dilemma

"Then we found a one-bedroom house for £40-a-week but we were told that was also too expensive. It's insane."

Mr John Topping, who is in charge of housing benefit at the council, said: "The trouble is we are dealing with two different bits of legislation."

"There is an anomaly in the law, and I recognize it is a nonsense as every taxpayer must do, but there is another piece of legislation which says no."

A DHSS spokesman said: "We are only responsible for paying for temporary accommodation. We have no influence over the policies of local authorities."

Family's 'insane' dilemma

For almost two months they have been trying to find somewhere other than the Keridon guest house in Torquay Road, Newton Abbot, for themselves and their son Robert, aged 16 and Lee, aged seven.

The problem is that if they move out of the guest house they come under the rules of housing benefit, run by the local Teignbridge Council, rather than under the DHSS who now pay their board and lodging.

Mr Dawkins explained: "We found ourselves a caravan for £66-a-week and we were really excited, but then we went to the council and they said that would be far too much."

Gurkha tells of cash offer to smuggle drugs

A former Gurkha private offered £500 to a colleague still serving with the regiment to smuggle heroin back to Britain from Nepal, a court was told yesterday.

Rifleman Purnabhadur Gurung, aged 32, told customs officers he was offered the cash by Mr Bijaya Jung Gurung, a former Gurkha, to smuggle more than £10,000 of the drug concealed in his body, Isleworth Crown Court was told.

Mr Robert Lake, a customs officer, told the court that Mr Purnabhadur Gurung admitted concealing the package when he was questioned at Heathrow last August. He was one of 80 Gurkha soldiers returning to their base near Aldershot after 18 days' leave in Nepal.

He denied knowledge of a further £143,185 worth of heroin concealed in his suitcase.

Gurkha tells of cash offer to smuggle drugs

Mr Purnabhadur Gurung has pleaded not guilty to smuggling heroin worth £53,495 into Britain.

Three other serving Gurkhas - Madan Kumar Suresha, aged 26, Haure Rai, aged 24, and Reshambhadur Gurung, aged 31, have denied attempting to smuggle cannabis resin with a street value of £28,000.

Mr Lake said Mr Bijaya Jung Gurung met the 80 Gurkhas when their aircraft landed in Nepal and later visited Mr Purnabhadur Gurung's family home and asked him to carry heroin back to Britain in a suitcase.

When he refused, Mr Bijaya Gurung asked him to approach others to smuggle cash through customs. Mr Purnabhadur Gurung refused, but agreed to carry the small package of heroin which he concealed.

The case continues.

Raider 'copied method from TV programme'

A building society raider who was sentenced to four years' imprisonment yesterday was said to have got his ideas from watching the television programme, *Crimewatch* UK.

Carl Foster, aged 26, unemployed, of Sussex Street, Plymouth, admitted at Exeter Crown Court three charges of robbery involving a total of nearly £5,800. He was jailed for four years on each count, the sentences to run concurrently.

Mr Andrew Maitland, for the prosecution, said that Foster first struck at the National Provincial Building Society in Plymouth last December.

He wrapped the cardboard from inside a kitchen roll in a carrier bag, pretended it was a gun and made the cashier hand over £1,339.

Raider 'copied method from TV programme'

In April at the Leamington Spa Building Society in Plymouth, he again pretended he had a gun and threatened to shoot the cashier. She handed over £530.

Two weeks later Foster raided the Yorkshire Building Society in Plymouth. Brandishing a replica gun he forced two cashiers to give him a total of £3,915.

Mr John Ballendine, for the defence, would not disclose in open court what prompted the raids.

But a detective said outside the court: "He was short of money and got the idea of raiding building societies from watching *Crimewatch* UK."

Mr Sam Organ, the programme's producer, said yesterday that he did not give credence to the claim. The programme is designed not to reveal security matters; we work closely with the police."

Singing debut on radio for Sean Connery

A cast of top actors and actresses is to star in a new drama series on Radio Three, *Barnes' People III*, a series of plays by Peter Barnes, will also mark the singing debut of Sean Connery, the former James Bond actor. He will be heard when he stars with John Hurt and Donald Pleasence in the first of the eight plays broadcast in a two-week season from August 18.

Each of the plays features a cast of three. Other titles include Bob Peck, David Suchet and David Warner; Ian Carmichael, Paul Eddington and Anna Massey; and veterans Renee Asherson, Wendy Hiller and Ann Todd.

The first *Barnes' People* was broadcast in 1981 and featured a series of monologues. *Barnes' People II*, heard two years ago on Radio Three, was a series of duologues.

Mr Barnes said yesterday: "I don't think either films or television could assemble, or probably even afford, such a tremendous cast list."

Motorway food 'lot better'

Motorway service areas had improved a lot since they were last inspected by the Consumers' Association in 1980 and since the relaxation of regulations which stifled competition, according to a report in *Which?*

Most now provided reasonable service and acceptable food, the inspectors concluded, after visiting all 36 areas on Britain's motorways (most of them twice), between February and June this year.

They nominated RoadChef's Killington Lake service area on the M6 the most attractive in Britain, "a pleasant and relaxing stop" where the scenic views were superb and the lavatories spotless, even if the food display in the restaurant was still "uninspiring".

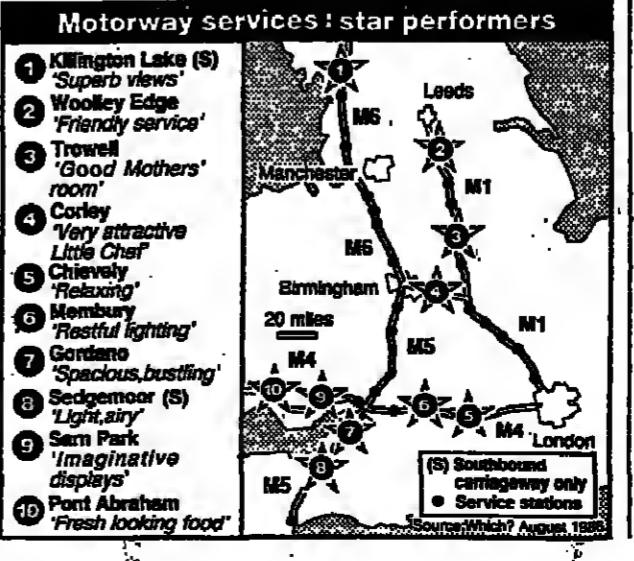
Trusthouse Forte and Welcome Break areas offered the best food, "of reasonable quality, varied and well-presented", the inspectors found. Granada's areas were the most consistently well-run, with good all-round standards, but RoadChef generally offered more limited facilities than their competitors, and Rank's areas were found less attractive and relaxing, with lower catering standards than other main chains.

Blue Boar and Kenning, with only two areas each, were said to have failed to keep pace with improvements elsewhere.

At Kenning's Anderton area on the M61 rows of bench seating and drab colours made the inspectors feel they had "stepped into a time-war".

Prices for food were not unreasonably higher than in off-motorway family restaurants, the report said.

Leading article, page 13



£19,500 fine for pirate videos

A man who turned his home into a factory for producing pirate videos was fined £19,500 yesterday by Birmingham magistrates.

When trading standards officers raided the home of Syed Zaidi in Melville Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, they seized nearly 1,000 tapes and found sophisticated video equipment for producing high quality reproductions of Asian films, the court was told.

Zaidi was said to have been making about £20,000-a-year from his business.

Zaidi, aged 39, who admitted the charges under the Trade Description Act and 11 under the Copyright Act, was fined £19,500 and ordered to pay £750 costs.

Cannabis plea fails in court

Bayja Dauvergne, aged 35, of Maida Vale, London, who was plagued by illnesses in the past but is now healthy claimed yesterday that the medicinal qualities of marijuana had worked wonders for him, but he was still fined £100 for growing a cannabis tree.

"It's a medicine tree," Bayja Dauvergne, who was born in the West Indies, told Marylebone court. "It's a miracle in this country," retorted Mr Geoffrey Noel, the magistrate.

Barrister is expelled

Mr Vishisingh Tahirramini Haridas, a barrister, has been disbarred and expelled from Lincoln's Inn for professional misconduct, the Senate of the Inns of Court and the Bar announced yesterday.

He was found guilty of dishonest conduct in making false statements to obtain a £7,000 loan and conduct which might have brought the profession into disrepute in failing to repay the loan.

'Python' star's operatic debut

Eric Idle, one of the stars of the *Monty Python* television series, who is also a playwright and songwriter, is to make his debut as an opera singer.

He will sing the role of Koko, the Lord High Executioner, in the English National Opera Company's new production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado* which opens at the London Coliseum on September 27.

Man of 54 on rape charge

A father of two daughters was accused at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court yesterday of raping a girl aged eight at a south London church.

The unemployed man, aged 54, from Camberwell, south London, was remanded in custody until August 13, charged with the attack at Christchurch in Brixton Road, Stockwell, on Monday.

Remand in heroin case

Richard Milford Luddin, a tailor, aged 31, of Bronie House, Kilburn Park Road, Kilburn, north London, who appeared before magistrates at Horseferry Road, Westminster, yesterday on drug charges, was remanded in custody for 24 hours to appear before South Western magistrates in a related case.

He is charged with supplying an unspecified amount of heroin to Andrew Gardner, on or before June 24 last.

Seven football fans remanded

Eight football supporters arrested after a testimonial match between Celtic and Arsenal appeared before Highbury magistrates in London yesterday.

Seven were remanded to various dates. Frederick Burns, aged 26, of Paddington, west London, was fined £200.

Boy killed on railway line

A boy aged 13 died from electric shock on a railway line at Peckham when he fell while searching for scrap metal on July 11. An inquest was told yesterday.

John Moran, of The Caravan Site, Hornsey Street, Peckham, slipped after climbing a fence with a friend aged 12. A train hit him and he had died instantly of electrocution.

£4m appeal

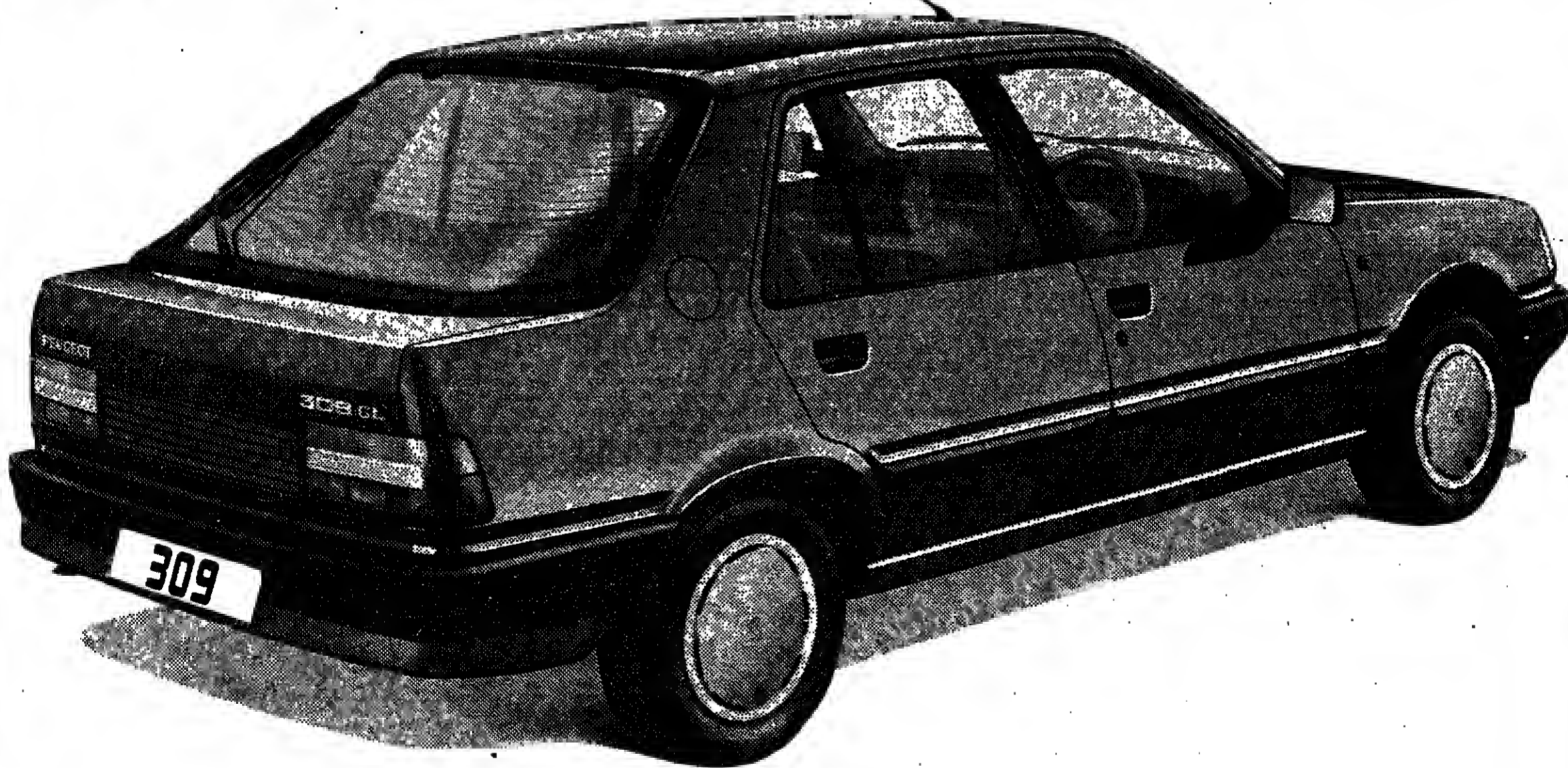
The Duke of Edinburgh is to be patron of a £4 million appeal to save Ely Cathedral in Cambridgeshire which is faced with crumbling stonework and deathwatch beetle. The appeal is to be launched next month.

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APR	0%	9.4%	11.9%
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DEPOSIT (MIN 30%)	1958.96	1958.96	1958.96
REPAYMENT PERIOD	12 MTHS	24 MTHS	36 MTHS
FINANCE CHARGES	NIL	434.16	822.48
MONTHLY PAYMENTS	380.92	208.55	149.82
CUSTOMER SAVINGS Over credit provider's normal interest rates of 12% p.a. flat (23.5% apr)	548.52	662.88	822.96
TOTAL CREDIT PRICE	6530.00	6964.16	7352.48



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Teachers fear a severe cut in technical education

By Mark Dowd

Technical education in schools next year will be affected by a "severe cut" in government funding, Britain's largest teaching union said yesterday.

Mr Alan Evans, education officer with the National Union of Teachers, said that the transfer of the Government's Technical and Vocational Education Initiative from its present pilot status in 62 schools to a national programme next year will leave many schools under-resourced.

The principal aim of the initiative, which was set up in 1983 and involves just under 20,000 students, is to tailor the school curriculum to make it more relevant to industry and science.

The annual cost of the pilot projects for 1984-85 was about £30 million. The union says that only £20 million has been earmarked for when the scheme is extended nationally to all students aged 14 to 18.

The figures quoted by the union also suggest declining financial support for the pilot projects themselves with an average of £660,000 for each one in 1983, falling to £400,000 a year later.

"It is obvious," Mr Evans said, "that the money the Government is intending to provide for the extension of the initiative will mean far less for each school than has been available during the pilot phases."

Yesterday's warning comes in the wake of the advice given to the Government by the Manpower Services Commission, which runs the initiative, that the level of funding for the national extension was "light".

Mr Evans also expressed his concern that the transfer was premature. "It is surely not educationally sound to make assumptions about the success of a pilot study before any proper evaluation has been carried out."

Red phone boxes saved for nation

By Trudi McIntosh

Eight of Sir Giles Gilbert Scott's cast-iron, red telephone kiosks were listed yesterday as buildings of special architectural or historical interest.

Lord Elton, Minister of State for the Environment with special responsibility for the heritage, formally signed the preservation order outside the only surviving example of a K3 model, which was built in 1929, and stands, until it is moved to a new technology showcase next year, beneath the portals of the Parrot House at the London zoological gardens.

Layang-Layang, a two-and-a-half-year old Asian elephant, helped Lord Elton to make a "trunk call", only to find that the telephone was out of order, to the embarrassment of British Telecom.

The listing covers also a row of five K2 kiosks in Broad Street, Covent Garden, central London; a K1 model in High Street, Bembridge, Isle of Wight, an example of the earliest standard kiosks which were built between 1921 and 1927; a K4 model, built in 1930, at Bridge Foot, Warrington, Cheshire; and a K2 model, built in 1927, which stands north of Bow Street

Magistrates' Court, west London.

Lord Elton said that he hoped at least 100 telephone kiosks, built before 1939, would be listed throughout the country "because they are so much a part of our history". There are about 60,000 red telephone kiosks left in Britain but most are K6 models, built after 1939 and not eligible for listing.

British Telecom began phasing out the kiosks 18 months ago as part of a five-year, £160 million modernization plan, replacing them with modern glass booths.

Buyers from the Middle East, Japan and the United States are clamouring for the traditional kiosks, paying up to £800 each, to transform them into a poolside bar, changing room, aviary or greenhouse.

Mr Malcolm Gilbert Scott, great-nephew of Sir Giles, is shipping them to America.

An advertisement in the *Middle Eastern Times* recently described the kiosk as a "unique conversation piece", and the demand is so great that British Telecom in the North-east has sold all 3,200 of their old red boxes this year.

Ex-cadet 'confessed' to WRAC

A woman army officer told a court martial yesterday that a former Sandhurst officer cadet on a drugs charge had telephoned her and confessed to being "a naughty boy". He had previously told her that he used drugs before joining the Army but had given them up.

Private Cymon Timothy Taylor, aged 23, now with the General Service Corps, Royal Armoured Corps Centre Regiment, denies three charges of possessing heroin and a further charge of possessing cannabis or cannabis resin.

Lieutenant Alison Hart, of the WRAC, told the court martial at Bovington, Dorset, that she had had a close but "casual" relationship with Private Taylor at Sandhurst.

She said that he told her he had a drugs problem before joining the Army but was cured. He showed her some blemishes on his arm and said they were old scars from injecting a substance. After Christmas he telephoned and asked to meet her, saying that he had been "a naughty boy" over Christmas. The hearing continues today.

Flood cuts off holiday towns

Towns in south-west Ireland were cut off yesterday after a record overnight rainfall.

An unprecedented 3.5 in of rainfall was recorded on Valentia Island, Co Kerry, in holiday centres near by firemen had to rescue people from homes and cars. At one stage a canoeist had to be called in to help a motorist the fire brigade could not reach.

The worst floods were in Tralee, Co Kerry, and Bantry and Macroom, Co Cork, where streets were submerged by up to 7 ft of water.

Hundreds of people were stranded and tourists had to be given temporary accommodation.

Forecast, page 16

PC charge

A boy aged 16 was remanded in youth custody till Tuesday when he appeared before Balham Juvenile Court in south London yesterday, charged with causing grievous bodily harm to off-duty Police Constable Christopher Green.

Battle over property advertising intensifies

Newspaper owners have gone into the estate agency business as an amazing tit-for-tat war intensifies. The battle began when a wealthy businessman, Peter Robinson, launched his own property guide where estate agents could advertise cheaply.

The first victim of the war was Sheffield's 130-year-old *Morning Telegraph*, which was forced to close in February with the loss of 240 jobs.

The newspaper could not survive without the estate agents' advertising revenue.

But owners of the *Telegraph*, Sheffield Newspapers, hit back by offering cut price house advertising in their evening newspaper, *The Star*. Mr Robinson retaliated by bringing out a motor guide offering cheap advertisements to garages and car dealers.

But the newspaper owners launched their own estate agency business, offering read-

ers a complete service for £100 plus VAT. The newspaper offers to have homes expertly valued and then advertise them four times with photographs.

Now Mr Robinson has fired his latest volley — the threat to launch his own newspaper unless *The Star* quits the estate agency business.

He said: "I don't want a war but I stand by my threat. If *The Star* continues in the estate agency business I will launch a new weekly newspaper which will include the property and motor guides and will sell for around 15p to 16p."

"I can't understand why *The Star* is out to break estate agents. They should have kept the door open. Since I launched my property guide they have reduced their rates. If they had done that in the first place *The Telegraph* might have been saved."



Protesters from Fulbeck and surrounding hamlets demonstrating against proposals to establish a nuclear waste dump on Lincolnshire farmland.

Human chain preventing nuclear dump survey

By Michael Hirst

Villagers in Lincolnshire have formed a human chain to block plans to turn farmland into a nuclear waste dump.

People in Fulbeck and surrounding hamlets south of Lincoln have so far stopped engineers from Nirex, the government nuclear waste agency, from entering the proposed site to carry out

suitability tests. Police have been called in but there have been no arrests.

The former Second World War bomber airfield at Fulbeck, now used for farming and as a Ministry of Defence training site, is one of four sites under investigation by Nirex for the dumping of low-level nuclear waste.

Miss Miriam Webster, aged 42, who helps to organize the

daily protest at the entrance to the 600-acre site, said yesterday: "The proposal is like putting a log in your larder. It has disrupted the lives of everyone in the community."

Several hundred people, from septuagenarians to children, hold hands 24 hours a day outside the entrance, which has also been blocked by farm vehicles. It is believed a High Court injunction will be

sought to allow the agency access to the land.

The villagers are trying to raise £12,000 to carry out independent geological tests to prove the unsuitability of the clay soil as a nuclear dump.

Mr Trevor Cartwright, aged 38, spokesman for Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire against Nuclear Dumping (Land), said: "We are worried

this is the thin end of the wedge if we allow it to get that far. Once Nirex has the facility for storing low-level waste the site could become a dash for higher levels of radioactive material."

Nirex has not indicated where the waste would come from but it is believed the site would take three trainloads a week for 50 years for shallow burial in steel and concrete.

Kent faces rival peace group at march end

Monsignor Bruce Kent, the anti-nuclear campaigner, was confronted by a rival demonstration yesterday as he approached the end of a 500-mile sponsored protest march.

Mr Kent faced jeers and boos from 30 members of the Coalition for Peace Through Security as he approached the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston, Berkshire. The former CND general secretary had set out from the Polaris submarine base at Faslane, Scotland, using a route taken by warhead convoys. The end of the march was timed to coincide with the forty-first anniversary of the atom bomb dropping on Hiroshima.

Mr Kent said he would demand a public inquiry into cases of leukaemia in local children.

Outside the capital, demonstrations to mark Hiroshima Day focused on a convoy of cruise missiles and support vehicles travelling from Salisbury Plain to the Greenham Common air base.

Cruisewatch, the network of anti-nuclear campaigners who track missile convoys, said six women staged a "die-in" on the A39 at the Parkhouse roundabout in Hampshire.

Police said one man had been arrested at Bullington Cross, Hampshire, for using obscene language during the protests.

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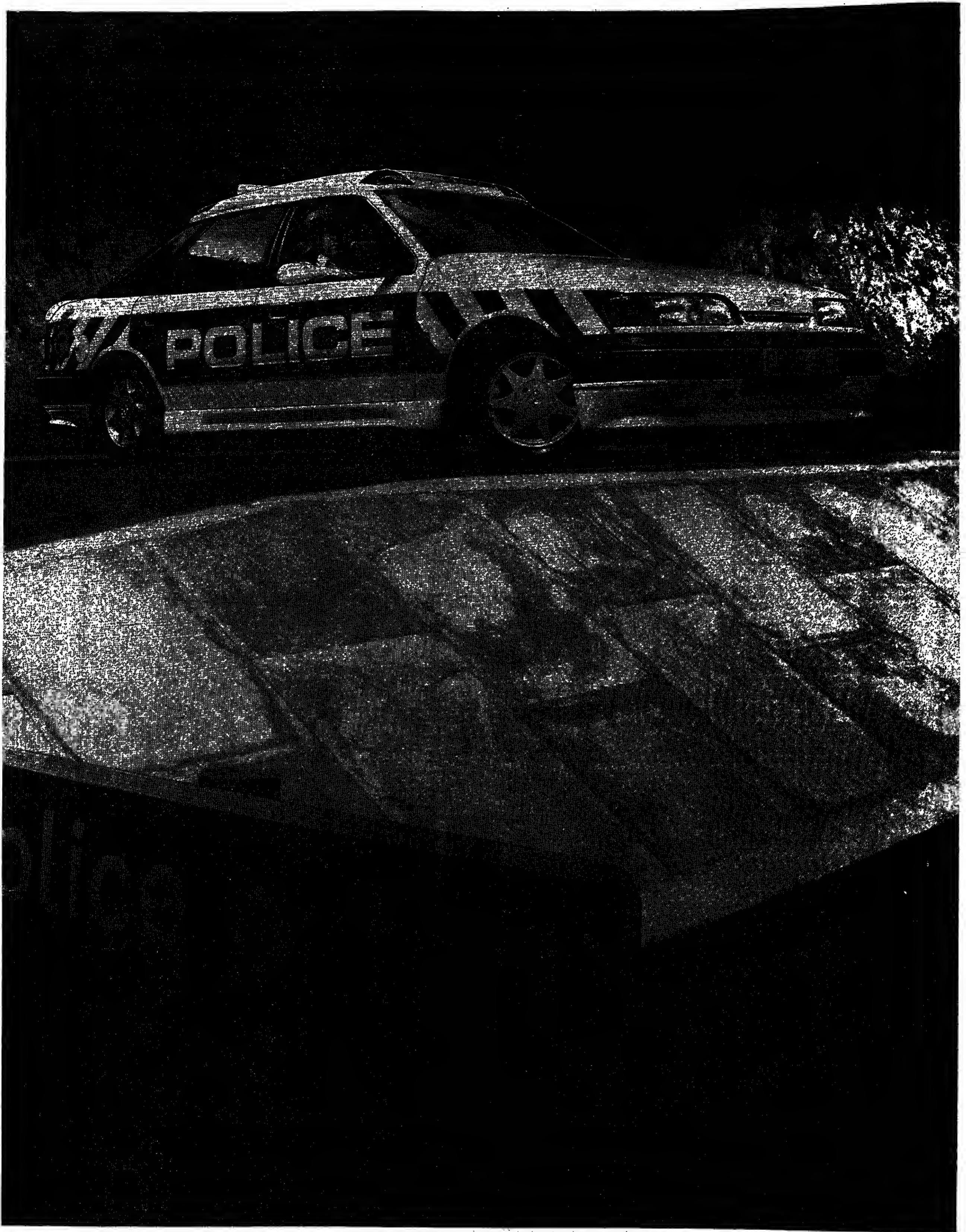
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But just about everything else is in the catalogue. Or should we say, the book?

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Human rights record of summit countries

Amnesty report finds fault with UK and its critics

By Our Foreign Staff

The British refusal to agree to wide-ranging sanctions against South Africa has been criticized as a moral failure and as silencing Britain's record on human rights.

One example of the criticism levelled at Britain came from Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, who said that Britain had sacrificed the leadership of the Commonwealth by compromising its position on moral principle over economic needs.

But on the economic front, Britain is a considerable contributor of aid to many of the countries that are condemning its stand on sanctions. Last year, Britain gave £443 million, including technical co-operation, to Commonwealth countries.

Every year, Amnesty International publishes a report which looks at the human rights record of individual countries. It concentrates on problems involving the imprisonment of non-violent political prisoners, torture and the death penalty.

In its latest report, covering 1984, Amnesty made comments on five of the seven nations which attended the Commonwealth mini-summit in London this week.

● Canada: Commented on events after a prison riot in 1982, where it said there were reasonable grounds for believing that prisoners had been tortured or ill-treated by guards.

● India: Amnesty said that it was concerned about the detention of prisoners of conscience, and about the number of political detainees who were held without trial, or were awaiting trial under special legislation permitting trial in camera.

● United Kingdom: Amnesty expressed concern about allegations of torture and ill-treatment during interrogation of political suspects in Northern Ireland. It was also concerned about judicial procedures in political cases in Northern Ireland, and was continuing to investigate a number of shootings by the security forces.

Zimbabwe gets £11m grants from Britain

Harare (Reuter) - Britain yesterday gave Zimbabwe two grants totalling £10.92 million to finance rural development and agriculture.

This brings its aid commitment to the southern African "frontline" state to more than £160 million in the past six years, making Britain the second-biggest aid donor to Zimbabwe after the United States.

At ceremonies marking the signing of the aid accord, the British High Commissioner, Mr Ramsay Melhuish, referred to sharp differences between Zimbabwe and Britain over economic sanctions against South Africa.

● Disagreeing with a friend

does not mean that one treats him like an enemy, Britain and Zimbabwe, as two sovereign independent states, remain friends at many levels," he said.

"But it takes two to make a friendship and it strikes me as most important that at this juncture we should all of us keep our current major disagreement about tactics towards South Africa in proportion."

The Finance Minister, Mr Bernard Chidzero, thanked Britain for its continued economic support for Zimbabwe, formerly Rhodesia, which gained independence in 1980 after a seven-year guerrilla war against white minority dominance.

President Reagan was yesterday briefed by Mr Chester Crocker, the assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, following his consultations in Europe, and the White House said it regretted Pretoria's economic retaliation against neighbouring black African states.

Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, said Washington deplored punitive sanctions by any party as they were generally counter-productive. He said Pretoria's retaliation against its neighbours would not lead to the dialogue Mr Reagan had hoped for, but to the dislocations he had feared.

The Administration has refused to comment on the public position taken by Mrs Thatcher on sanctions, or on the reactions of other Commonwealth leaders. The State Department, in keeping with Washington's low-key approach to the whole South African crisis, has also said nothing on specific sanctions.

There is evidence, however, that Washington may be quietly pleased with the outcome of the Commonwealth conference. Britain's reluctance to impose full-scale sanctions does not leave Washington isolated in its opposition to punitive measures.

Results in London please US

From Michael Binyon Washington

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Mrs Thatcher's willingness, however, not to block measures by the European Economic Community will allow the Administration to make a public gesture of solidarity in proposing similar steps when the Community outlines its measures next month.

Only about 1,000 Zambians are legally employed in South Africa. South African passport-holders can enter Zambia, but there is little tourist traffic between the two countries.

Veterinary co-operation: In 1984 South Africa supplied 379,400 doses of vaccine. Education: between 1979 and 1985, Zambia sent 990 students to South African higher educational institutions.

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Zambia: Another landlocked country, Zambia last year sent only 0.3 per cent of its exports to South Africa, but South Africa supplied 14.5 per cent of its imports, mainly manufactured goods and canned and other foods.

Heavily dependent on mineral exports, especially copper, Zambia's main problem is that the shortest routes for getting these to the sea - through Tanzania and Mozambique - are so inadequate that it has had to turn extensively to South Africa's railways and ports.

It is estimated that at least a quarter of Zambia's exports, and 35 per cent of its imports, pass through South Africa. Zambia is independent of South Africa for electricity, and most of its petroleum products come in on the Tazara railway line from Dar es Salaam.

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Chirac uses guillotine on broadcasting Bill

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

For the fifth time since coming to power five months ago, M. Jacques Chirac's right-wing Government has used the guillotine method to cut short debate and push a Bill through Parliament.

The Socialists have expressed their opposition by tabling a censure motion which, however, has no chance of being adopted as the extreme-right National Front has already stated it would not vote for such a motion.

This time it is the Government's broadcasting Bill which has been guillotined, because, as M Chirac said in the National Assembly on Tuesday night, his Govern-



Herr Brann at the press conference in West Berlin on Friday at which he described his spectacular 'escape' from East Berlin. Below, the three dummies dressed as Soviet officers.

'Dummy run' escape a hoax

From Our Correspondent Bonn

A man who claimed to have escaped from East Berlin by car by disguising himself and three shop dummies as Russian soldiers admitted yesterday that the story was a hoax.

Herr Heinz Brann, aged 48, had told West Berlin state security police that he wanted to draw attention to the building of the Berlin Wall 25 years ago, a spokesman said.

Police had searched for Herr Brann and unconfirmed reports that he was an East German spy. His West Berlin flat, as well as that of Herr Wolf Quasner, the commercial escape organizer who was said to have masterminded the spectacular flight, was searched on Tuesday night.

Herr Walter Neuhans, the West Berlin Justice Department spokesman, said Herr Brann would now be investigated for joint forgery of car registration documents and the unauthorized wearing of a uniform.

Doebits about the great escape story strengthened on Tuesday night when the West German television magazine programme *Kontraste*, which covers East-West German topics, said Herr Brann had admitted the hoax.

A commentator said Herr Brann had told allied officials last weekend that the story was a money-making stunt staged to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the Berlin Wall next Wednesday, to make the most of it in payments from gullible news agents.

The *Daily Mail*, which



Brann's offence in wearing a uniform was made more serious by the fact that it was a Soviet one. This could involve the allied powers in Berlin when it came to charges, in which case he could face a jail sentence of up to five years.

Herr Neuhans said Herr Quasner had not yet been questioned.

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The *Daily Mail*, which

plashed the story on its front page last Friday, and ITN are said to have paid a total of £8,000 for exclusive rights to Herr Brann's tale.

Herr Rainer Hildebrandt, chairman of the August 13 Working Group, which runs the escape museum at Checkpoint Charlie, said he was not surprised at the news that the escape was bogus.

"I had a tip-off last Sunday that Brann was working for the East German Ministry for State Security, I passed this on to our security police."

● LONDON: A spokesman for the *Daily Mail* said yesterday that the matter was being investigated by senior editorial executives, and until they have reported their findings there would be no comment on speculation that £8,000 had been paid for the story.

ITN said it covered the story, but made no payment for it.

Subpoenas on bomb technology dropped

Washington - The Justice Department has announced that it has dropped subpoenas against several Israelis wanted for questioning over a plan to smuggle US cluster-bomb technology to Israel (Michael Binyon writes).

In return, the Department said, Israel has promised to co-operate in the investigation.

The subpoenas drew angry protests from the Israeli Government, which has been embarrassed by a series of accusations of attempts to spy on the US, smuggle weapons technology and sell US arms to Iran.

Poll rigging admitted

Lagos (Reuter) - A former Nigerian legislator has confessed that he took an active part in rigging the 1979 elections that returned the country to civilian rule.

Isa Waziri, who sat in the Niger state house of assembly for the ruling National Party of Nigeria, said he entered fictitious names in electoral rolls and then cast the votes himself.

Whaling talks suspended

Washington - An Icelandic minister left talks with US officials here on a whaling dispute to go home, but both American and Icelandic officials denied that the discussions had broken off (Mohsin Ali writes).

Mr Halldor Asgrimsson, Icelandic Fisheries Minister, was due to hold consultations with his Cabinet colleagues in Reykjavik yesterday.

Manila aid

An all-party group of MPs is urging the British Government to increase aid to the Philippines to help the new regime cope with the legacy left by former President Marcos.

Rail disaster

Delhi (AFP) - At least 43 people were killed and 35 injured when an express collided with a goods train in the Indian state of Bihar.

250 flee

Mninch (Reuter) - A total of 147 Czech and 109 Polish holidaymakers in West Germany in the first seven months of this year have stayed on.

Rebels move

Port Moresby (Reuter) - Five rebel leaders from Indonesia's Irian Jaya province jailed after fleeing to Papua New Guinea will leave for Ghana later this month to await resettlement in Europe.

Aids alert

Addis Ababa (Reuter) - Ethiopia is to introduce strict surveillance to identify victims of Aids trying to enter the country.

Fall-out

Ankara (Reuter) - A plan for Canada to build Turkey's first nuclear power plant has collapsed because of disagreement between the two countries over financing.

Drug racket

Moscow (Reuter) - A number of Soviet doctors and nurses have been found guilty of illegally selling narcotics obtained from medical institutions. The official news agency, *Sovetskaya Rossiya*, reported.

Writers bailed

Khartoum (Reuter) - Sudanese authorities have released on bail 10 journalists arrested after a demonstration against the suspension of two state-owned newspapers.

Forest blaze

Huesca, Spain (Reuter) - Firefighting planes, troops and firemen are battling a fire in the Spanish Pyrenees which has destroyed more than 7,000 acres of pine forest in the last week.

Racing charge

Hong Kong (AFP) - Nine people have been charged here for suspected involvement in Hong Kong's largest horse racing scandal.

Market opens

Peking (Reuter) - China's first stock market since 1949 has opened in Shenyang, China's second-largest industrial city after Shanghai - one of five chosen to experiment with new economic models.

Air born

Vienna (Reuter) - A Jordanian woman gave birth to a baby girl on an Alia Royal Jordanian Airline flight from Chicago to Vienna 33,000ft over southern England, helped by three doctors on board.

Counting cost of retaliation

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Zimbabwe and Zambia, because of the high profile their leaders have assumed in the pro-sanctions campaign against South Africa, are bearing the brunt of South African retaliation.

Although neither country is as dependent economically on South Africa as such small states as Lesotho and Swaziland, they are none the less extremely vulnerable to South African pressure.

Zimbabwe: South Africa is landlocked Zimbabwe's biggest trading partner, and the conduit for an estimated 90 per cent of its overseas trade, despite the publicly hostile attitude towards Pretoria shown by Mr Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's Prime Minister.

On July 31 this year, the two countries signed a revision of a long-standing trade agreement, extending the preferences, in the form of reduced customs duties, granted on the bulk of Zimbabwean manufactured exports to South Africa.

In 1984, South Africa took 18.3 per cent of Zimbabwe's exports and supplied 19.3 per cent of its imports. Last year, exports to South Africa fell behind those to Britain, mainly because of the decline in the value of the rand, but South Africa remained the biggest source of imports.

It is estimated that Beira, on the Mozambique coast, which is Zimbabwe's nearest port, can only handle 800,000 tons of the country's annual export-import volume of 8 million tons. The rail line to the port is kept open by means of costly protection by troops from Zimbabwe against anti-government insurgents.

The balance of trade is moved through the South African railway and harbour system. A small proportion passes into and out of the South African network through the Mozambique port of Maputo.

Relatively few Zimbabweans work in South Africa - only 7,742, according to 1983 figures - and the Beira oil pipeline makes Zimbabwe independent of South Africa for fuel imports, though the pipe often has to be repaired

because of sabotage attacks by insurgents. The two countries still exchange scheduled air services. Zimbabwe has its own satellite facilities, and is now independent of South Africa for telecommunications. The tourist trade remains brisk.

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John Huston, the Oscar-winning American film director, getting an affectionate hug from his film actress daughter, Anjelica, on his 80th birthday, which was celebrated at his favourite restaurant in a Los Angeles suburb.

Near disaster for Columbia space shuttle

From Mohsin Ali Washington

The US space shuttle Columbia came within 31 seconds of being launched on January 6 without enough fuel to reach proper orbit, just 22 days before the shuttle Challenger exploded, killing its crew of seven.

Fatigue among overworked launch control personnel at the Kennedy Space Centre has been blamed for the "potentially catastrophic" inadvertent draining of 10,000 lb of liquid oxygen from Columbia's external tank.

"Fortunately, the liquid oxygen flow dropped the main engine inlet temperature below the acceptable limit, causing a launch hold, but only 31 seconds before lift off," the presidential commission investigating the Challenger disaster said in its final report.

Columbia was launched on January 12 after seven delays because of technical problems or bad weather.

The report said the operators, who misinterpreted what the computer system was telling them, "had been on duty at the console for 11 hours during the third day of working 12-hour night shifts".

Black is Republicans' state governor choice

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Mr William Lucas has become the first Black to be nominated by the Republicans as candidate for state governor, after resoundingly winning the Michigan Republican primary on Tuesday.

There were also early indications that Vice-President George Bush held a strong lead over his two rivals, Representative Jack Kemp and the Rev Pat Robertson, in the first elections to have some bearing on the 1988 presidential race.

Mr Lucas, aged 59, a soft-spoken son of West Indian immigrants who holds the powerful post of chief administrator of the Detroit Metropolitan Area, is a former Democrat who was enthusiastically welcomed into the Republican party by President Reagan last year.

He faced a strong challenge from Mr Dick Chrysler, a millionaire who held a strong lead until the closing days of the campaign. But the results indicate Mr Lucas has won by a margin of up to 19 per cent.

Towards the end of the campaign Mr Chrysler was accused of violating state labour laws in running his firm.

The Republicans face a strong and popular incumbent Democrat, Governor James Blanchard, who is credited with Michigan's economic revival. But Mr Lucas has

clearly succeeded in capturing considerable White support outside the Detroit area.

Black support for Mr Lucas may have been dampened by his conservatism and his frosty relations with Mayor Coleman Young of Detroit. However, his victory is of considerable importance to the Republicans nationally in their attempt to lure Blacks away from their overwhelming allegiance to the Democratic Party.

Only once before has a Black been nominated as a gubernatorial candidate. This was Democrat Mayor Thomas Bradley of Los Angeles, who is again the party's candidate as governor of California.

The Michigan primary also received national attention because it marked the first phase of the protracted presidential campaign.

Despite the remoteness from the actual presidential race, the leading Republican candidates have all paid frequent visits to Michigan in an attempt to attain visibility and build up early momentum.

Mr Bush, the overall favourite, has been shaken by the strong challenge from Mr Robertson, whose fundamentalist Christian supporters have campaigned strongly for him. The preliminary Michigan result suggests Mr Bush has retained his lead.

Exchanges get cultural boost

The United States and the Soviet Union have concluded a wide-ranging cultural exchange programme, which will bring artistic and educational contacts back to the level they enjoyed 10 years ago (Michael Binyon writes from Washington).

After months of negotiations officials from the two countries have announced agreement on 13 exchange programmes. These range from important art exhibitions to the sending of a Soviet specialist to teach Americans how to teach Russian.

Cement crisis at Chernobyl

Moscow (Reuter) - The entombment of the Chernobyl nuclear power station's damaged fourth reactor is proceeding too slowly because of a concrete shortage, *Pravda* said yesterday.

The newspaper said the plant's first and second reactors could not resume operations until concrete walls had completely encased the fourth unit.

The paper blamed the Chernobyl concrete factories for failing to work at full capacity.

Hisoshima remembers devastation

Hiroshima (Reuter) - The names of almost 5,000 victims of the Hiroshima nuclear blast, who died over the past year, were added to a memorial roll yesterday as the city silently marked its devastation 41 years ago.

Cars and trams stopped in the streets, people clasped hands in prayer, offered flowers, or simply stood and remembered the 140,000 victims of the world's first atomic bomb.

The mayor, Mr Takeshi Araki, read Hiroshima's annual peace message, calling on the world to abolish nuclear weapons and inviting the superpowers to hold a disarmament summit in the city.

Wheat sale backlash divides allies

From Stephen Taylor Sydney

The Reagan Administration's decision to sell subsidized wheat to the Soviet Union, at serious cost to Australian producers, has unleashed a backlash here which, if public statements are to be believed, could signify long-term damage to the relationship with the United States.

Political and farming leaders have temporarily buried their own differences in vehement denunciations of the subsidized sale deal.

"The long, friendly relationship between Australia and the United States is going bad," Mr John Kerin, the Minister for Primary Industry, said when it became apparent that Washington was

not going to heed the delegation that he took with him to lobby against the proposal.

Mr Ian McLachlan, the farmers' leader, does not often agree with Mr Kerin, but he said: "The decision is an extraordinary act of provocation by a major friend and ally."

Their outbursts, coming on the heels of the criticism of the decision by Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, are fuelled by the latest statistics indicating that the cost to Australia's unsubsidized wheat exports will be around \$Aus300 million (£120 million) next year. This comes at a time when Australia's main economic problem is its widening balance of payments deficit.

The sense of betrayal and

frustration is compounded by the knowledge that there is only one card that Canberra could play in negotiations which might change the Administration's mind, and that would be to disallow the US military bases here.

The fact that security arrangements with the United States are still central to Australia's own defence strategy militates against such a course of action.

Nevertheless, the Hawke Government faces a political problem as a result of the decision no less pressing than the one which persuaded the Administration to adopt it.

As a result, it is estimated that the average Australian wheat farmer will lose \$Aus10,000 in the 1986-87 season, on top of average

losses already projected at around \$Aus7,500 a year.

The price of other export grains is also expected to drop as a result of the US subsidy policy.

Canberra is still trying to reconcile itself to the fact that things are not as bad as they might have been. Another leading Australian wheat customer, China, has not been included in the subsidized sale plan.

But there is no certainty that the programme will not be broadened in time. An agricultural delegation which met Mr Bill Lane, the US Ambassador, on Monday after a wheat-dumping protest outside the embassy, came away with no assurance that other Australian markets would not be affected in future.

HOME LAUNDRY BUY NOW PAY IN NOVEMBER

Table listing washing machines and tumble dryers with prices and features.

Table listing tumble and spin dryers with prices and features.

Table listing dishwashers with prices and features.

Table listing small appliances like kettles, toasters, and blenders.

VACUUM CLEANERS

Table listing various vacuum cleaners with prices and features.

MICROWAVES

Table listing microwave ovens with prices and features.

COOKING

Table listing electric cookers with prices and features.

Table listing built-in ovens with prices and features.

Table listing electric hob units with prices and features.

GAS

Table listing gas cookers with prices and features.

Table listing gas hob units with prices and features.

GAS FIRES

Table listing gas fires with prices and features.

Table listing heaters with prices and features.

Table listing dual fuel cookers with prices and features.

REFRIGERATION

Table listing refrigerators with prices and features.

Table listing deep freezers with prices and features.

Table listing upright freezers with prices and features.

COMET FOR GAS

Text describing Comet's range of gas cookers and fires.

Text about safety and professional installation for gas appliances.

Text about the 3 & 5 year guarantee offered by Comet.

Table listing fridge freezers with prices and features.

Text about the instant credit offer and terms of sale.

Large advertisement for Hoover 3386 Electron Deluxe microwave oven, featuring a large image and promotional text.

Large central advertisement for Comet Discount, featuring the brand name in large letters and promotional offers.

VIDEO

Table listing video recorders with prices and features.

CAMCORDERS

Table listing camcorders with prices and features.

TV & VIDEO ACCESSORIES

Table listing TV and video accessories with prices and features.

TV

Table listing black & white TVs with prices and features.

Table listing colour TVs with prices and features.

Table listing TV receivers with prices and features.

Table listing TV sets with prices and features.

AUDIO

Table listing digital clock radio alarms with prices and features.

Table listing transistor radios with prices and features.

Table listing radio cassettes with prices and features.

Table listing compact disc systems with prices and features.

Table listing stereo systems with prices and features.

Table listing cassette recorders with prices and features.

Table listing personal stereo systems with prices and features.

Table listing car radios with prices and features.

Table listing car stereo systems with prices and features.

Table listing car Hi-Fi systems with prices and features.

Table listing car Hi-Fi speakers with prices and features.

Table listing car Hi-Fi amplifiers with prices and features.

Table listing car Hi-Fi tuners with prices and features.

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HI-FI

Table listing hi-fi systems with prices and features.

Table listing hi-fi rack systems with prices and features.

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TELEPHONES

Table listing one piece telephones with prices and features.

Table listing two piece telephones with prices and features.

Table listing cordless telephones with prices and features.

Table listing telephone answering machines with prices and features.

Table listing home computers with prices and features.

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PHOTOGRAPHY

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Table listing 35mm compact cameras with prices and features.

Table listing auto focus cameras with prices and features.

Table listing 35mm SLR cameras with prices and features.

Table listing lenses with prices and features.

Table listing flashguns with prices and features.

Table listing tripods with prices and features.

Table listing gadget bags with prices and features.

Table listing camera accessories with prices and features.

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Advertisement for Goodmans 040 Tower Electric Deep Fat Fryer, featuring a large image and promotional text.

Opening hours and contact information for Comet Discount stores.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'General president for Shi...' and 'Delhi...'.

Jerusalem court backs presidential pardon for Shin Bet officials

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Presidential pardons granted to four of the most senior Shin Bet counter-intelligence officials have been upheld by the High Court of Justice here in a majority decision.

The ruling means that a police inquiry into how two Palestinians died while in Shin Bet custody, and how two official inquiries into their deaths were deliberately misled, will not be able to bring charges against some of those most closely involved in the affair.

It remains to be seen if Mr Yosef Harsh, the Attorney-General, can effectively carry out his promise to investigate the politicians involved in the affair, notably Mr Yitzhak Shamir, who was Prime Minister at the time and was thus the only responsible member of the Government.

In a second, unanimous decision the three members of the Supreme Court agreed that there was no need to issue a further instruction to police to investigate the affair, despite a petition arguing that there was insufficient guarantee that this would happen.

As a result of these decisions Mr David Kraus, the Police Inspector-General, will start

interrogating witnesses about the affair. According to some legal opinions he will now be able to find out more, since the four pardoned men will be obliged to answer all questions, and will not be able to refuse to give information on the grounds that it would incriminate them.

Mr Kraus told the Knesset's law committee last week that one question he would be asking Mr Avraham Shalom, the Shin Bet chief, who is among those pardoned, is to explain what he meant when he said he had "permission and authority" to order the killing of the two men. (He used this phrase in his letter asking for pardon.)

Mr Shamir, who was the only person authorized to grant Mr Shalom such "permission", said in a recent interview that there was no standing order to kill captured terrorists. "It wasn't in the form of an instruction," he said. "It was a conversation... This could have been a general mood. This happens in many instances, but there was no such instruction."

Yesterday's decision means the President has virtually unlimited powers of pardon

even, as in this case, where those concerned have not been found guilty of any offence. In a dissenting opinion included with the 160-page decision, Justice Aharon Barak insisted that the President does not have the power to grant a pardon in circumstances of this kind.

As the inquiry gets underway, lawyers acting for 10 other Shin Bet agents involved in the case, including those who carried out the killing, are preparing to request pardons for their clients.

They will now be able to cite the High Court ruling as a precedent.

The politicians and organizations that brought the case to the High Court generally were not dismayed by yesterday's decision. Their view was that the legal move had forced the Government to agree to the police inquiry, which it had initially tried to prevent.

On the other hand, Mr Yitzhak Modai, who was the Justice Minister when the pardons were granted, said the decision proved that the Government had been perfectly correct throughout in its handling of the case.

Six die as Sydney hit by deluge



South-western suburbs of Sydney, Australia under water (above, left) after the Georges River burst its banks, causing motorists and bus drivers to abandon their vehicles on the partly-submerged Milperra Bridge, while pedestrians like the schoolboy (right) battled their way through the downpour.

After its driest winter in a century, the city was deluged by the most torrential rains ever recorded here, causing flooding which claimed six lives and wreaked immense damage and disruption (Stephen Taylor writes).

The freak conditions — a full 13 inches of rain fell in 24 hours to mid-morning yesterday — forced the evacuation of 500 people from the west of the city.

In one tragedy a couple trying to wade to safety from a car trapped in the flood waters had their children, aged one and three, dragged from their arms and drowned.

In two days Sydney had more rain than in the previous six months, but forecasters say the storms have now passed.

The three municipalities worst affected by flooding were Blacktown, Auburn and Fairfield. Elsewhere in New South Wales the towns of Bathurst and Windsor also suffered extensive damage.

Mr Barrie Unsworth, the new state



Chinese respond to Gorbachov initiative

From Robert Grievs, Peking

China's Foreign Ministry yesterday responded more favourably and in more detail to the speech by Mr Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, at Vladivostok last week than it has in previous statements.

In his speech on July 28, now known as his "Asian initiative", Mr Gorbachov offered, among a variety of proposals, to withdraw some Soviet troops from Afghanistan and Mongolia, and to train Chinese cosmonauts.

"We have taken note of the speech," a ministry spokesman, Mr Yu Zhizhong, said. "We believe that he has made some new remarks on the improvement of Sino-Soviet relations that have not been made before."

Speaking to Soviet and Western journalists, Mr Yu said: "China and the Soviet Union have already begun to hold dialogues at a certain level. The question is how to hold serious dialogues and make substantial progress."

He confirmed that experts from the two countries had exchanged views on the cooperative use of the water resources of the Heilong Jiang/Amur river in Manchuria, and that agreements were being drawn up.

Co-operation in space was a proposal yet to be studied.

When Soviet correspondents asked for China's position on Mr Gorbachov's proposed collective security conference in Asia, Mr Yu replied: "We hope that, to ensure the security of the Asian-Pacific region, practical steps will be taken to greatly reduce the nuclear missiles already deployed, and to reduce the hotspots in Kampuchea and Afghanistan."

Moscow has about 170 mobile medium-range SS20 missiles deployed in Soviet Asia, and 450,000 well-equipped troops along the 7,200-mile border with China. Opposing them are 1.5 million less well-equipped troops of the People's Liberation Army. Soviet troop strength in Mongolia is estimated at between 25,000 and 75,000.

Weakened racism law for Israelis

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Rabbi Meir Kahane, Israel's extreme nationalist leader, has voted in the Knesset to help pass an anti-racism law originally drafted to combat the Kach Party he founded. In the words of Mr Abba Eban, one of the Knesset's elder statesmen, the vote at midnight on Tuesday was "like Casanova voting for the seventh commandment."

The new law, which carries penalties of up to five years' imprisonment, has been so watered down since it was first drafted that the Rabbi is confident it can never successfully be used against him or his supporters.

At the same time, in order to support the law from the right-wing Likud faction, the Labour Party had to agree to support another new law which prohibits any Israeli firm having unauthorized contact with leaders of the PLO.

The watering-down of the bill was done to placate the religious parties, which were worried it could be used to back Judaism. The law as passed does not cover publications that aim to preserve the character or uniqueness of a religion. Since Rabbi Kahane's platform is that he is fighting to preserve a Jewish state for Jews, this is a perfect escape clause for him.

The law leaves the onus of proof on the prosecution, which must show that statements of publications are actually meant to incite racism before there can be a conviction. It will not be sufficient, as the original draft had intended, to prove that the publication was itself likely to incite racism.

The new law forbidding contact with the PLO is a further blow to the small dovish wing of the Labour Party, which, since the recent meeting between Mr Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, and King Hassan of Morocco, has been trying to launch an internal debate aimed at recognizing the PLO in peace negotiations.

González rejects talking to Eta

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain's Socialist Government, pleased with receiving the degree of anti-terrorist collaboration from the Chirac Government that it never obtained from the French Socialists, has decided to respond with equal firmness to calls for negotiations with Eta, the Basque terrorist organization.

"There will be no negotiations, no Spanish government will negotiate with a band of terrorists," Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, declared after receiving M Robert Pandraud, France's Minister for Security, who is on a visit here. Their talks lasted 30 minutes.

The visit was yesterday being hailed here as marking a new high point in anti-terrorist co-operation between the two countries and Señor González's remarks were praised unanimously by the right-wing press.

In Madrid's view, M Chirac's Government is showing determination, where previous French governments wavered, even though a framework for depriving Eta of a sanctuary in south-west France from which to prepare attacks on Spanish targets had existed for the past two years.

Meanwhile, Spanish security sources yesterday expressed doubt about whether the threatening letters received by the British, West German and Japanese embassies here really were from Eta.

They base their reservations on the expressions used, such as the reference to "Japanese economic penetration in Spain" in the letter to the Japanese Embassy. Eta is always careful not to use the word "Spain", experts said.

No Basque newspapers, which habitually receive calls from Eta after attacks assuming responsibility, had by yesterday been contacted by the underground organization.

Señor González's satisfaction with France was underlined when he also used his meeting with M Pandraud as the basis for giving Spaniards a solemn guarantee that the

terrorists would in the end be defeated by the security forces.

The Prime Minister had evidently chosen the meeting as the best opportunity for stopping in its tracks talk in the Basque country about Madrid missing good opportunities for settling the problem of Basque terrorism around the negotiating table.

His words had the effect yesterday of leaving the ruling Basque Nationalist Party isolated there.

However, the Basque Nationalists counter-attacked yesterday, accusing the Prime Minister of adopting a "tone worthy of an army sergeant-major". It was the duty of

Holidaymakers need not change plans for travel to Spain, but must be on the watch after death threats from Basque separatists to Britons working there, the Foreign Office said yesterday (our Foreign Staff writes).

politicians to find ways to eradicate violence and solve the country's main problems, the party contended.

The pro-Eta Herri Batasuna party claimed that Señor González knew that there would have to be negotiations to modify Spain's present constitution — a reference to Eta's demand for Basque independence. "Here in the Basque country the present constitutional set-up is not valid," the party spokesman declared.

Señor González's words showed how the impact of Eta's recent spectacular crimes in Madrid rule out any talk of negotiations.

His Government, he promised, would push ahead doggedly with its present policies for combating terrorism, based on police action and international collaboration. It would bring back into normal political life any Eta members who abandoned terrorism and were not guilty of crimes.

The Spanish authorities are keeping quiet, however, about the price they anticipate the Chirac Government will extract for this stepped-up collaboration.

Drug use falls in US forces

Washington (Reuter)

Drug abuse among US military personnel has dropped sharply since 1980, but alcohol consumption remains a serious problem, the Defence Department said yesterday.

A Department survey showed that 8.9 per cent of the 2.1 million military personnel used marijuana and other drugs last year, down from 27 per cent in 1980.

The survey showed that the Marines had made the most progress in cutting regular use of drugs (37 per cent in 1980 to 9.9 per cent in 1985), but remained the heaviest drinkers, followed by the Army, Navy and Air Force.

The report, based on questionnaires answered by 17,328 enlisted troops and officers, suggested that even though alcohol use was slightly down on 1980 figures it was still pervasive in the forces.

The report said 87 per cent of military personnel drank moderately, two-thirds were moderate to heavy drinkers, and 12 per cent were heavy drinkers.

While average alcohol consumption had fallen from 1.5 to 1.2 oz a day between 1980 and 1985, the average Marine drank 1.5 oz a day last year compared to 1.9 oz in 1980.

"Alcohol continues to be a very significant problem," said Mr William Mayer, the assistant Defence Secretary.

"The long run, alcohol is the bigger problem. But the more deadly one at this time is drugs."

Mr Mayer, who is in charge of health affairs for the Pentagon, said the success of the anti-drug programme was partly due to warnings about the consequences of drug use and to regular and random urine tests for drug use. More than 64,000 men and women had been dismissed from the forces in the past three years for drug use.

The report concluded: "Results suggest that alcohol use is by far the most serious substance use problem, although the use of drugs presents important discipline problems for the military."

Barco takes over in Bogotá

From Geoffrey Matthews, Bogotá

Señor Virgilio Barco Vargas, a 65-year-old technocrat, will be sworn in as Colombia's President today, amid a national mood which can only be described as quiet, somewhat puzzled expectancy, mixed with trepidation over escalating violence, fuelled by guerrillas and cocaine barons.

As President-elect since his landslide electoral victory ten weeks ago, Señor Barco has been keeping a low profile and saying surprisingly little, except to reiterate his one major campaign promise, that his Government's first priority would be to tackle unemployment, officially standing at 15 per cent but in reality much higher.

One important question mark still hangs over the complexion of his Government and whether it will continue the tradition of including members of the opposition.

That tradition dates from 1958, when civilian rule was restored after a brief military intervention to end a decade-long civil war in which as many as 300,000 may have been killed.

Under a pact called the National Front, designed to cool sectarian hatreds, the Liberal and Conservative parties alternated in the presidency for the next 16 years. Even after normal elections were resumed, in 1974, the

National Front has continued on an unofficial basis.

But Señor Barco argues persuasively that in a genuine democracy the triumphant party has a mandate to govern, while the defeated party has "a sacred duty to mount a constructive opposition".

The Conservatives seem inclined to agree, in the belief that it is smarter politics to stay out and let the Liberals, traditionally Colombia's majority party, take full responsibility for the incoming administration. Two successive Liberal governments between 1974 and 1982 were badly tainted by widespread corruption, and there are mounting fears that the same will happen this time.

Although Señor Barco's own reputation for honesty is unblemished, there is alarm over political deals he was forced to make with certain notorious party hacks in order to ensure that the powerful Liberal party machine would propel him to the presidency.

A cold, humourless man, reported to have an explosive temper in private, Señor Barco's personality contrasts sharply with the man he succeeds today, Señor Betancur, an independent Conservative, whose human touch was always in evidence.

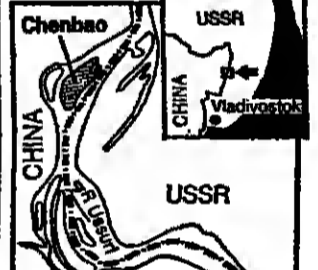
As he bows out, Señor Betancur's is increasingly being regarded as the most bold and imaginative of recent administrations. He attempted to forge peace with the guerrilla organizations, steered Colombia into the non-aligned group and championed the Contadora group's peace initiatives in Central America.

Señor Barco seems set to concentrate much more on domestic affairs, where, say his admirers, his proven ability as an administrator will come to the fore.

An economist and engineer, who has served as ambassador in both London and Washington, and as a director of the World Bank, he has a reputation as a workaholic with an obsession for efficiency. That, say many independent observers, is just the kind of executive leadership the country needs at a time when the economy, among the more healthy in Latin America, is improving.

Today's inauguration is to be attended by the US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, who will no doubt be keen to discuss with him Colombia's continuing campaign against the drug trade.

Last week this claimed another victim when a Supreme Court judge was assassinated by hit-men hired by the drug "mafia", in an attempt to prevent further extraditions of their brethren to the United States.



Chenbao USSR
USSR
MOSCOW: The Soviet Union is ready to consider China's position on a dispute over the demarcation of their border along the Amur and Ussuri rivers, a deputy foreign minister said yesterday (Reuter reports).

Mr Mikhail Kapitsa said Moscow was prepared to recognize that the border passed along the main channel of the rivers rather than on the Chinese side.

Mr Kapitsa, an Asian specialist, was expanding on the Vladivostok speech, to which Mr Gorbachov held out the prospect of an agreement on the river frontier.

Referring to treaties signed between China and Tsarist Russia, he said: "What this means is that a number of islands which under the treaties were considered part of Russian territory would be beyond the mainstream and part of China."

Delhi accepts British drug agents

Delhi (AP) — India has approved in principle the posting of British narcotics officers here, a Foreign Ministry spokesman told Parliament.

But Mr K R Narayanan, the Minister of State for External Affairs, did not dispel doubts about political troubles with the drug programme, stalled because of strained relations between India and Britain.

Indian and British sources had reported that British drug enforcement agents would be posted in India by the end of last May.

India complains that Britain is not taking a hard line against Sikh extremists and extraditing Sikhs who are demanding a separate Sikh nation in the north Indian state of Punjab. Some British newspapers have suggested that India was trying to put pressure on Britain to crack down on the Sikhs by holding off on the placement of British narcotics officers.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister, told the BBC last week that India was out using the drug issue to bargain for a tough stand on Sikhs.

Doctors held in Bangladesh demonstration

More than 20 junior doctors were arrested, and at least 35 others wounded, as police fired tear gas shells and used truncheons to disperse a demonstration in central Dhaka by about 300 newly-qualified medical graduates demanding government jobs (Ahmed Fazi writes).

The clashes marked the end of a week-long agitation by more than 1,200 unemployed doctors. The health ministry announced last week that it would take on 500 doctors.

Superpower rivalry in South Pacific Fish deals lure island states

From Richard Long, Suva, Fiji

The price of Pacific fish and the superpower rivalry involved is a big issue facing leaders of the South Pacific Forum when they begin their annual four days of talks in Suva tomorrow.

The forum comprises the 13 independent states of the South Pacific, ranging in size from Australia to tiny Pacific atoll nations such as Tuvalu, with an area of 10 square miles and a population of 9,000.

The fishing rights problem looms over the meeting, casting the Soviet Union in the role of the good guy offering lucrative fishing deals to impoverished island nations which for years have seen their fish being taken for nothing by United States tuna men.

In spite of nine rounds of talks between the Forum Fishing Agency and American officials there is still no agreement. The buccaneer-like members of the American Tuna-men's Association have bided from their original stance that they do not have to pay royalties for migratory tuna, but argue that their catches do not warrant the royalties being offered by the Russians.

Mr David Lange, the New Zealand Prime Minister, before he left for the meeting, summed up the dilemma facing the small forum members. Although naturally pro-Western in their outlook, they were having to look favourably on

the Soviet offers as they had little alternative.

This in turn brought an unfavourable reaction from the United States and the prospect of Washington increasing its military presence in the area to counter the Soviet presence.

The prospect was for increased superpower rivalry in the South Pacific.

The countries of the South Pacific Forum are Australia, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa.

The South Pacific, Mr Lange said, "I judge that to be not in New Zealand's interest and not in the Pacific's interest."

He acknowledged that Washington, aware of the consequences, had "moved heaven and earth" to find a solution, without success. The tuna men said they could not match the Russian payments, and Washington took the view that it could not subsidize commercial interests.

The irony was that Washington would, in the end, pay a great deal more to be militarily prepared in the region.

Last August the tiny state of Kiribati, formerly the British-administered Gilbert Islands, signed a \$1.2 million fishing deal with Moscow. Vanuatu is now considering an offer which includes, for the first time, onshore facilities. Fiji has said it would consider an offer.

The most heated debate at the forum, however, is expected to centre on the issue of independence for the French territory of New Caledonia. Melanesian member states are expected to push for a resolution backing an independent Kanak republic. The more conservative Polynesians, with Australia and New Zealand, are expected to oppose this.

Mr Lange thinks it inevitable that the forum will, as a compromise, refer the issue to the United Nations Committee on Decolonization, seeking New Caledonia's re-inscription on the UN list of countries that are not self-governing.

The leaders will also approve the protocols of the South Pacific nuclear free zone treaty, which aims to ban the manufacture, storage, testing and use of nuclear devices in the vast area of the Pacific between the west coast of South America and the east coast of Australia.

Of the nuclear powers, China and the Soviet Union have indicated that they will sign. The US and Britain have yet to decide. France, which continues to test nuclear weapons in French Polynesia, is expected to ignore the treaty.

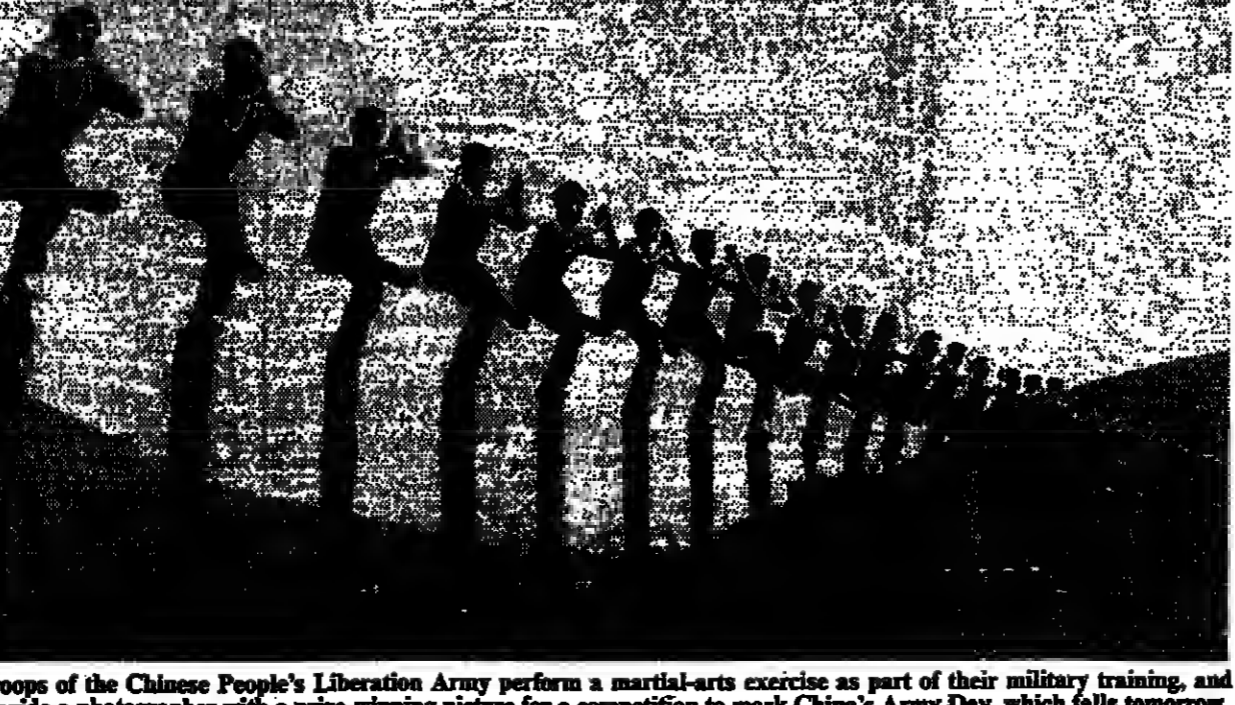
Pakistan court upholds Army regime's laws

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad

A full bench of the Sind High Court has upheld the validity of all laws promulgated in Pakistan by martial law authorities during an 8½-year period until December 30 last year.

The bench, headed by Chief Justice Nasimuddin, rejected the petition of a former airport security officer, who had sought the court's intervention against the termination of his employment in August 1981, under martial law regulation 52.

The High Court's decision was considered vital, since it debars people affected by martial law from seeking legal redress.



Troops of the Chinese People's Liberation Army perform a martial-arts exercise as part of their military training, and provide a photographer with a prize-winning picture for a competition to mark China's Army Day, which falls tomorrow.

Papering under the Tory cracks

THE TIMES PROFILE

CONSERVATIVE CENTRAL OFFICE

Conservative Central Office, the London HQ of the Tory party machine, is used to abuse from its friends. It is always an easy scapegoat for frustrated MPs, voluntary workers, even Cabinet ministers. If things go wrong, blame the party bureaucrats, goes the cry. Words like "idle", "out-of-touch" and "spendthrift" permanently battle for space in the political air.

This week, with the stories of the rift between Mrs Thatcher and the man who currently runs Central Office, Mr Norman Tebbit, the abuse has hit an unusually high point, even for the inured inhabitants of Smith Square.

The best way to understand the Tories' elegantly fronted office in Westminster is to liken it to a lock on a canal. Around the middle of the parliamentary term, it begins to fill with people and money as the level of election readiness rises. It peaks at the campaign itself and then the process goes into reverse. The people and the money drain away until it is time for the cycle to start all over again.

With such a degree of ebb and flow it is perhaps not surprising that the party which likes to stand for solid British virtues seems often — and particularly this week — to have so volatile an HQ.

It is the largest and — for all the occasional rows over staff-cutting economies — the best-financed of the four party organizations. But it has an oddly-assorted mixture of people behind its doors. A section of its staff are long-term retainers, untouched by the feverish entrances and exits and resigned to the poor pay and frequent changes of style, management and dogma. They work side by side with a quick-change cast of short-termers of whom the most senior is the chairman himself.

Chairmen bring in their own people; there is a rapid turnover of younger researchers who may stop only long enough to get their footing on the political ladder; election build-ups bring in yet more specialists on temporary secondment. The inside of the building reflects this turnover: it is a warren of small, poky rooms divided by often very temporary partitions.

High policy coexists with bum-rum doorstep politics. The chairman at Central Office may be one of a Prime Minister's closest political confidants; his colleagues

may be arbitrating disputes in far-flung constituencies about coffee-morning accounting. On the same day a watchful (but not overdominating) eye has to range over 650 parliamentary constituencies which have to be brought to the election start line with a presentable candidate, and a minister may have to be briefed for *Question Time* in the midst of a crisis like Westland.

For three weeks every five years, party headquarters has the world at its feet: its media hammer on the door while Cabinet ministers listen humbly to explanations of target voters and market segmentation. The moment it has helped put the leader in Downing Street, its power and influence begins to evaporate.

Designing an election-winning strategy is always harder when a party is in government: much policy-making will be done in Whitehall, much presentation is out of Central Office hands. There is the old Catch-22 facing incumbents campaigning for another term: presenting a new plan to the electorate is liable to provoke questions about why the Government hasn't thought about it or done it before.

At the moment, the Conservatives are feeling the force of this over both education and crime rates. Public dissatisfaction has generally helped the Conservatives on these issues in the past but that is now offset by scepticism about the government's ability to make an impact after failing to do so after seven years in office.

Worse than this are the interconnected problems which lie behind the recent rash of stories suggesting that Norman Tebbit's relations with Downing Street had deteriorated to the point where he might be about to resign. At the heart of this is unmistakable evidence that Mrs Thatcher does not share her party chairman's view of the strategy which the party needs now.

These snippets of information about secret meetings at Chequers to consider new research findings have made already uncomfortable Tory MPs in marginal seats even more uneasy. The huge parliamentary majority delivered in 1983 by the collapse of the Labour vote brought in dozens of pleasantly surprised new MPs who — short of a very dramatic turnaround



Mrs Thatcher's image makers past and present (clockwise from bottom left): Norman Tebbit, present party chairman; Cecil Parkinson, party chairman at the 1983 election; Lord McAlpine, party treasurer; Sir Gordon Reece, communications adviser in the 1979 and 1983 campaigns; Michael Dobbs (left), deputy chairman of Saatchi and Saatchi on secondment as Tebbit's chief of staff, with Harvey Thomas (right), yesterday announced as director of promotions and presentation; and Jeffrey Archer, deputy chairman

will not be in the next parliament. They have little else to do except ponder the nuances of culpability for the Westland and British Leyland debacles.

The conclusions drawn by many of them are similar to those drawn inside the circle of non-Central Office advisers around the Prime Minister.

Tebbit's electoral analysis, and that of his key lieutenants, is firmly rooted in making sure that the party is not distracted by the threat

from the Alliance. Those who disagree with this, including the MPs directly challenged by the Alliance and not by Labour, are worried by the unreflectively traditional extremism-bashing aimed at Labour.

Occasionally this battle pops up in the coded utterances of ministers; Douglas Hurd, in the wake of Westland, said pointedly that a third term would not be won by "scragging our opponents". "The problem", one dissenter said, "is

that our guns are simply pointing in the wrong direction". Tebbit is confronted by a genuinely new problem. Every wheel and cog in the Conservative and Labour party machines has been designed and maintained for years on the assumption of a two-party fight. The slick 1983 campaign masterminded by Cecil Parkinson bit a tempting Labour Party target where it hurt most and sidelined the Alliance.

Now the scene has changed. The

Alliance has steadily enlarged its hold on local councils; its opinion poll rating refuses to go below 20 per cent; talk of coalition and hung parliaments is incessant.

Central Office projects a clear outlook on three-party politics which amounts to the view that it is a temporary phenomenon. This philosophy defines Labour as the "main threat" — in the words of one key planner — while acknowledging that many Conservative voters were in fact defecting to the Alliance. But he added that this was a short-term tactical problem.

After the council elections last year, Central Office encouraged its council and parliamentary candidates to apply to London for help in countering the Alliance. The burst of energy quickly fizzled out and has reappeared only recently. Virtually its only tangible effect on the ground has been to divide the regular "know-your-enemy" briefing into separate Labour and Alliance newsletters.

Central Office is poised to unveil several new campaigning weapons which have been in preparation for most of this year. They will look and sound impressive — a massive direct mail campaign, upgraded computers, greater regionalization of campaigning, new membership benefits — but the message which these are designed to convey remains fuzzy.

The Central Office defence against the charges that its stance is out of date and too static relies on the counter-charge that the rest of the party leadership cannot deliver a clear enough line for the headquarters machine to go out and sell. The counter-attack will be carried on to the party conference at which many of the enhanced campaigning techniques will be unveiled in full.

Norman Tebbit suffers two disadvantages. First, with the arrival of Cecil Parkinson to succeed Lord Thorneycroft as chairman, the job suddenly became massively visible. The Falklands war gave him a ready platform. Tebbit is undiplomatic with the media, mistrustful of it, and was not born with looks which come across as friendly and reassuring on television.

Second, his intellectual appetites are for policy and not presentation. He regards himself as one of the last guardians of Thatcherite radicalism in a Cabinet which is tending to forget how it all began. Some of the criticisms of the complacency of the current Saatchi & Saatchi plans for the run-up to the election simply reflect the fact that Tebbit finds selling a good deal less congenial than designing.

George Brock

Trident and the taxman

A growing number of people opposed to nuclear arms are withholding the taxes that fund them

Every evening, Edward Stanton waits for a visit from the bailiffs. They have been once this month already and taken away his electric typewriter. He doesn't believe that it can possibly fetch quite enough when they auction it, so they are bound to be back for more.

Stanton is a contract gardener in Cumbria and owes the Inland Revenue precisely £250, the sum he has calculated that the average British taxpayer contributes annually towards Trident.

It's not that he cannot pay the money he owes; he has simply decided not to. He says that the weapons of genocide are illegal, and believes there should be an alternative tax fund for those who oppose nuclear warfare.

Stanton has been pursuing his case through the English courts for three and a half years. He has quoted the Bishop of Lincoln's refusal to pay a levy towards Richard the Lionheart's was in



Paying for peace: Edward Stanton awaits the bailiffs

France, and a 1917 High Court ruling that, where two statutes are in conflict, the one which follows Christian law prevails. But no judges have been prepared to take him seriously.

Stanton is not alone. Irtham Windors, a retired librarian from Gloucester, spent three weeks in prison this spring for refusing to pay £109.05 to the Inland Revenue. He had sent them a cheque for the money he owed, but had made it out to the Overseas Development Administration. They sent it back to him.

As a formal lobby, the Peace Tax Campaign took shape in the late 1970s when Stanley Keeble, a Cornish farmer whose furniture had already twice been distrainted, joined forces with the Society of Friends and the 1930s pacifist organization, the Peace Pledge Union, and wrote a letter to *The Guardian* with their views. A thousand letters of support came back to them; by mid-1981, some 3,000 members were on their mailing list.

Since then the campaign has been advancing slowly but deliberately: an amendment has gone before Parliament, and there have been several 10-minute rule hearings. None has succeeded, but the pressure is growing.

There are said to be some 300 to 400 families in Britain waiting for the bailiffs. Some are retired people, others are librarians, school-teachers and farmers. The sums involved are not all small: Roger Franklin, a writer who lives near Bath, owes £4,000.

Not one of them really believes that their movement is about to sweep the country. It is a far more private form of protest. The principle, as they see it, is one of morality. The conscientious objectors of two world wars were the right to be exempted from supporting the fighting. "Why," asks Keeble, "should we now be forced to pay for others to kill?"

Caroline Moorehead

Bridge for the Baltic

A £1,000m project to build a bridge and tunnel linking Sweden and Denmark across the 10 miles of the Baltic Straits could move a stage nearer completion next month when the two governments meet to discuss it. But the project, formulated two years ago by a consortium of businessmen to bring the Nordic countries closer to the heart of modern Europe, will face a rough ride from conservationists, particularly those in the countries which it is most designed to help.

The Baltic scheme is just a small part of a colossal engineering plan that would take 20 years to complete and would cost scores of billions of pounds. Its detractors claim it would choke the life out of Europe with a network of motorways, tunnels and bridges.

The industrialists who are pressing the case for the Baltic Straits tunnel and bridge, dubbed Scanlink, include multinational groups like Siemens and Thyssen, and leave as their chairman Pehr G. Gyllenhamner, the flamboyant head of Volvo.

In a 43-page report, "Missing Links", the group argues that "on a continental scale, deficiencies in Europe's ground transport system constitute an effective barrier to European economic and social progress". Their remedy is to fill in the gaps with an overall scheme which takes in the Channel road/rail project; Scanlink; a road and rail network south from Oslo which would reduce the travelling time to the centre of Europe by up to 25 hours; and a high-speed European train network.

This would mean a series of new tunnels through the Alps; a huge motorway between the West German city of Lübeck and the Norwegian capital via Gothenburg and Copenhagen; and a cat's cradle of bridges intended ultimately to eliminate the need for ferries across the Fehmarn Belt, Great Belt and Oresund.

In their original statement of the plan, the industrialists said: "Europe is a market of 360 million people still waiting, in some respects, to be served effectively by the continent's own industrial companies. The failure to integrate markets, the fragmentation goes to the

Plans to link Sweden and Denmark are just part of a huge scheme to transform European travel



heart of Europe's most pressing economic and employment problems".

But they have failed to convince the conservationists that the few environmental problems they foresee will be more than compensated for by the number of jobs created.

The reaction of European conservationists has been predictable. A seminar on the Missing Link proposals was organized last August by Scandinavian environmental groups and an "anti-link action campaign" was launched. "It requires no feat of the imagination to grasp the effects on the environment of such a monstrous expansion of road traffic", wrote one of the protesters in *Acid News*, the Swedish campaigning magazine.

The enormously increased emissions of nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons would sound the death knell for the forests. Fitting catalytic converters would, in such circumstances, be like trying to bale a sinking boat with a teacup.

An agreement between the Swedish and Danish governments to build a fixed link across the Baltic would be the first stage in a process which the conservationists fear

would become progressively harder to stop. The industrialists note: "The key to Scanlink initially is to build the sea crossings. Once this is achieved, Scanlink will in a sense be operational. The build-up of traffic caused by the completion of the fixed links, however, would create the momentum needed for the upgrading of related road and rail systems."

They see Scanlink as "the crucial northern leg of a transcontinental road and rail corridor connecting Scandinavia via with the motorway and rail networks of central Europe". The philosophy behind this is straightforward. The Nordic countries rely for their prosperity upon trade with their southern neighbours.

As transport links, especially roads, between other European countries have improved, the Nordic states have slipped into a position of disadvantage.

Travel time by road between Oslo and Hamburg, a journey of about 550 miles, is about 20 hours. The journey from Rotterdam to southern France, roughly the same distance, can be made in half the time.

Tony Samstag

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CONCISE CROSSWORD No 1022

- ACROSS
- 8 Afterbirth tube (9,6)
 - 9 Metal rock (3)
 - 12 A Argentine. Chile (9)
 - 11 Piffer (5)
 - 13 Wretched (7)
 - 16 Bullfighter (7)
 - 19 Decree (5)
 - 22 Rootless (9)
 - 24 Silent (3)
 - 25 Chorus (2,6,5)
- DOWN
- 1 Sever (3,3)
 - 2 Rappel (6)
 - 3 Careless (8)
 - 4 Put end to (6)
 - 5 Cinder (4)
 - 6 Rebound (6)
 - 7 Publicity responsive public (6)
 - 12 Commercial media body (1,1,1)
 - 14 Debar (8)
 - 15 Animal pouch (3)
 - 16 Chic (6)
 - 17 Prosper (6)
 - 18 Amend (6)
 - 20 Not liable (6)
 - 21 Meddle (6)
 - 23 Love excessively (4)

SOLUTION TO No 1021
ACROSS: 1 Back up 4 Middle 7 Loud 8 Negative 9 Advocate 13 Coy 16 Nitroglycerin 17 Bat 19 Embolden 24 Wicacare 25 Mail 26 Coast 27 Misstep
DOWN: 1 Bald 2 Coup d'etat 3 Panic 4 Might 5 Duty 6 Lower 10 Ozone 11 Ad lib 12 Excel 13 Coruscate 14 Yank 15 Snub 18 Exile 20 Mucus 21 Odeum 22 Mess 23 Clap

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THE TIMES DIARY

Summit rematch

Hardly has the dust settled after the Commonwealth mini-summit than another Thatcher-Commonwealth clash looms...

Deadline

An intriguing tale of possible American-Israeli complicity reaches me from Cairo...

Aerial attack

Mind you, things are not always cosy between VOA and the Israelis. There, local ecologists are furious over plans to build a transmitter in the Arava Valley...

BARRY FANTONI



'No problem - Angus will simply organize a night shoot'

It's a date

A fine piece of one-upmanship from Burke's Peerage. Its latest press release announces that the publicity office will be closed from the birthday of His Imperial Majesty Napoleon...

Elevating

Inspired by Prince Andrew's elevation to Duke of York, a correspondent writes to the Birmingham Mail: 'Wouldn't it be a very pleasant boost for our great city of Birmingham if Prince Edward could be made something like the Duke of Birmingham at some appropriate date...'

Fruit trader Anthony Eliakis spotted this poster for Greek peaches and nectarines at Covent Garden. A divine delight, I think you'll agree.

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Reagan's space-weapons shift

by Lord Chalfont

The Pentagon's funds for the "Star Wars" research programme, which have been the subject of heated congressional debate in the United States, have just been approved by the narrowest of margins...

American conservative critics argued strongly in the past week that this threatened delay would sink the prospects for funding since Congress would never vote money for a programme with such doubtful prospects.

If it were true that all he had done was to offer a delay of seven and a half years in the deployment of strategic defences, it would be something like offering not to divulge the secret of eternal life before next Christmas.

space-based systems much before the beginning of the next century. Reagan's purpose should, however, be taken much more seriously. It is based upon the conception of strategic defence, not as a protective dome over the United States and the West to prevent Russian ballistic missiles getting in, but as a dome over the Soviet Union to prevent them getting out.

The president's answer to this charge is, in effect, to postulate a system which would also provide for a similar dome to prevent American missiles getting out; in other words to share with Russia the benefits of any strategic defence system which current research might show to be practicable.

It is important, however, to realize that the president's offer is not a new thread in the pattern of American thinking on strategic defence. Nor does it represent as both hawkish and dovish commentators have either lamented or celebrated, any "change of heart" in the White House concerning the use of SDI as a bargaining chip in the arms control dialogue with Moscow.

It has, therefore, always been envisaged that, at the end of the research period, there would be discussions with the Soviet Union, and America's allies, on how to manage the transition from one strategic posture to the other.

All this may, it is true, prove too difficult to negotiate with the Soviet Union. What is also important about it, however, is that it reflects a determined attempt on Reagan's part to create a psychological climate in which a meeting with Gorbachov later this year might lead to serious verifiable arms control agreements.

Reagan and Gorbachov agreed in Geneva last November on the general principle of a 50 per cent reduction, and there have been recent signs of a willingness by the Soviet Union to follow this up with serious negotiations.

There are signs in the US of the emergence of a coherent strategic conception which might lead to agreements designed, not just to fulfil some vague idea of "arms control" for its own sake, but to move away from the posture of threatened devastation towards deep cuts in nuclear weapons stockpiles and a safer, more stable balance of power between the Soviet Union and the West.

The author was Minister for Disarmament 1964-67.

Peter Brimelow on stock market sages who outdo Wall Street experts

Gurus with a gilt edge

America is a large country filled with a restless population convinced of the virtues of self-help, and one of the more popular means of self-help is owning shares: more than 40 million Americans - one in seven of the population - are estimated to own shares directly.

There are charlatans in the investment letter business (they are not unknown among stockbrokers) but the letters in general have been most successful precisely where orthodox opinion has been wrong.

The first real evidence of the soundness of some of the investment letters came with the advent in 1980 of the Washington-based Hulbert Financial Digest. Naive comment has focused on Hulbert's revelation that the overwhelming majority of letters do not beat the market, and that well known figures such as the Financial Success Report's Howard Ruff, author of several best-selling books, play tricks like ceasing to mention unsuccessful recommendations.

More recently, younger academics have been discovering "anomalies" in the efficiency of the market. For example, there is the "small firm effect", the ten-



density of shares of low-capitalized companies with relatively small dollar amounts of stock outstanding to outperform the market, and the "insider effect", the tendency of stocks to appreciate after purchases have been reported to the authorities by company officers and major shareholders.

Already there has been some academic recognition that the stocks rated "most timely" by the long-established Value Line service have outperformed the market for 30 years. Now it appears there are others. And a varied lot they are. Charles Allmon of Growth Stock Outlook is a former

photographer for National Geographic magazine. Al Frank of the Prudent Speculator was once an education professor, and before that a shell (decoy) player in a Las Vegas casino. And Martin Zweig of the Zweig Forecast taught college-level finance until a year or so ago. Their methods are various, often theoretically incompatible. But they seem to make their work.

The investment letter industry's more entertaining characters have not helped its image much. In the early 1980s, Joseph E. Granville of the Granville Market Letter achieved genuine superstar status, travelling a million miles in four years to speak at heavily publicized meetings, his regular platform guests including a chimpanzee named Dwarfman in honour of a critical financial columnist, Dan Dorfman, and an

iguana named Greenspan after the noted Wall Street economist, Alan Greenspan. Once, in Tucson, Arizona, he began his meeting by walking across a swimming pool on a plank concealed just below the surface, telling his audience "And now you know!"

Granville's apotheosis came in 1981, when his January 6 sell signal, telephoned to subscribers in the middle of the night, precipitated a stock market collapse. But the next year he completely missed the bull market that roared into life that August (and in fact has only recently admitted, to his distinctly smaller readership, that it wasn't just a mirage).

Granville's sell signal was much cited here in early July, when the stock market performed another record nosedive following a sell signal put out by an investment letter: Robert R. Prechter's Elliott Wave Theorist. But Prechter is a very different character. He is a serious young Yale graduate who lives quietly with his wife and children in the mountains of north Georgia, linked to the world by computer and telephone.

Prechter is unmistakably sincere in his belief that market moves are governed by a complex rhythm first discerned by a Los Angeles accountant some 50 years ago. And in the past few years his predictions have in fact been remarkable. Like Granville, Prechter is an accomplished musician - before getting interested in the stock market he spent years on the road with a rock group. Unlike Granville, however, Prechter is not purveying unconfined gloom: just a stumble of 10% or so, he says, and then the bull market will be ready to charge again.

Some of the investment letter writers began their spare time and, as a result of their demonstrated prowess, are now managing large amounts of money. In the American pantheon, the ideal of a Log Cabin to White House career has been supplemented by that of Kitchen Table to Financial Institution. It may seem improbable that these outsiders can beat the Wall Street establishment - almost as improbable as two Ohio farmboys inventing the first flying machine. Peter Brimelow is the author of The Wall Street Gurus: How You Can Profit From Investment Newsletters (Random House, New York, \$19.95).

Hazhir Teimourian on Iran's likely gains from the imminent push in the Gulf war

What the human waves can win

teenage volunteers had perished when they moved into minefields ahead of the main groupings of guards and soldiers.

More recently, it seemed that the regular army had won the ear of Ayatollah Khomeini's top men in Tehran. There was a pronounced move away from relying on force of numbers, as advocated by the guards, in favour of modern techniques of warfare, culminating in this year's offensives that captured the Fau peninsula and the border town of Mehran. Both operations were thoroughly prepared in advance and carried out according to plan.

Now, however, a new factor has begun to change the strategic landscape for both sides: the delayed impact of falling oil revenues, which have financed more than 90 per cent of their imports in the past. Iran expected to earn \$12.7 billion from oil sales this year, but the figure is likely to be less than \$5.5 billion. If the war were to continue, Iran would have to choose between buying the arms and equipment it needs for

the war, and providing food for its 43 million people.

Iraq's position is slightly less precarious. Although it needs expensive weapons to hold off the Iranians, it earns more money from oil sales and has only 14 million mouths to feed. It also has large stocks of weapons held in reserve. Even so, it has had to defer payment to more than 800 foreign companies this year.

Tehran's leaders have tried to explain the oil price slump in terms of a Western conspiracy, especially by Britain, to force them to abandon the war. They have vowed to overcome Iraq before the full impact of the slashed oil revenues makes itself felt.

Ali-Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the Speaker of the Islamic Majlis (parliament) - who seems to be the most powerful political figure in Iran after the retiring Ayatollah Khomeini - has said that the conflict must be ended within 12 months, and the guards commander, Mohsen Rezai, has said that his country "will do something this year that will put into

the shade the Islamic Revolution itself."

Rezai has also said that the human-wave tactics will be applied simultaneously along the whole 700 miles of the front. While he knows that Iraq still possesses huge stocks of weapons with which it has, in the past, mowed down lightly-armed waves of Iranian infantry, he also knows that Iran would need to break through in only one location to threaten Baghdad, or cut off the south of Iraq from its north.

Most military specialists believe that Iraq's resistance is unlikely to collapse in the face of Iran's offensive. The prospect is, therefore, for continued Iranian gains in the southern and central sectors of the front.

If such gains were sizeable, Iran could afford to sit upon them for the time being in the hope of either annexing them - and their rich oil deposits - as reparations for the war, or to use them in peace negotiations with the Arabs once the Ayatollah has gone.

Such territorial gains could make Iran a neighbour - for a number of years, at least - of the pro-Western states of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. And, as the gains would be sufficient to fuel Iran's revolutionary fervour for a while yet, it would not be a friendly neighbour - a prospect which neither Kuwait nor Saudi Arabia can view with any equanimity.

Ronald Butt

A lost peace in politics

"I cannot help referring to my old opinion, which is now supported by more weight than I ever expected, and wonder that a man can be found in England who has bread that will be concerned in public business," wrote the Duke of Shrewsbury to Lord Somers in 1701. "Had I a son, I would sooner breed him a cobbler than a courtier, and a hangman than a statesman."

Since politics has lately become subject to Murphy's law, and things have been going wrong in ways which it would have seemed mad to predict, it is tempting to think that such sentiments must strike a chord with at least some in high places just now. Yet it is impossible to imagine Mrs Thatcher echoing (even *mutatis mutandis*) these classic words of Whig disillusion, let alone emulating Shrewsbury's political conduct. For he was often infirm of purpose, holding high office but (after oscillating uneasily between William III and St Germain) ultimately throwing it up. Like the Duke of Omnium, who had to be cajoled into overcoming a fastidious disinclination for office, Shrewsbury no doubt felt he had done his country a favour by accepting it. Moreover, whether or not such men thought that the quiet management of their own estates was a finer occupation for a nobleman than politics, at least they had estates to fall back on.

Mrs Thatcher, however, is a professional politician who is activated by will and conviction, and pursues a calling that today absorbs far more of any politician's life and personality than Shrewsbury could have conceived. She is never infirm of purpose, and disdain for the political rough-and-tumble is not in her nature. What is more, she and the generality of politicians do not only lack great estates and the influence of grand independent social status; the pursuit of politics also leaves them no room for anything else.

It is true that, at the end of the political road, city directorships may beckon some ex-ministers in their decline and fall. But directorships are not 18th-century dukedoms and in the early stages of withdrawal symptoms from the drug of politics, modest consolation prizes are all they are. Given time, however, the money, the freedom and the comparative ease will no doubt persuade the likes of Patrick Jenkin to wonder why they waited so long and endured so much. How did they ever bear a seven-day week and a 15-hour day, and for such a thankless end? It may not instantly strike them that nowadays politics can be as sound a road to financial independence as financial independence was once to politics.

Time to think, and the lack of it, is really the heart of the distinction between the Duke of Shrewsbury's kind of politics and our own. Time is the great sacrifice on the modern altar of politics. Although political

power is real and politicians do change things, educating their departments on the great issues of the day, they also take too much pleasure for the health of politics in the illusion of power created by those innumerable decisions which are ordained by the facts and advice presented to them (facts being as manoeuvrable a commodity as advice) and which they could not possibly settle themselves. The lure of politics can end up being not simply power but the illusion of power created by perpetual motion.

Funnelled from place to place by their private offices and their official diaries, some acquire a perverse pride in not knowing what they will be doing this time tomorrow, what factory they will visit - what committees they will chair. It is apparently quite satisfying to be able to say on the *World at One*, and with the munificence of a political Paul Getty: "And that is why I have just spent £5 million on this that or the other."

Modern politics is a profession leaving little time for reflection. Busy-ness is its status symbol, and the outward and visible sign of authority is the hurried demeanour which politicians think it advisable to assume. Once all was dignity and statesmen were stately, who could imagine Gladstone or Churchill running, even in Macmillan's day a certain statesmanlike dignity of movement was still in order. But now the politicians scurry out of their departments and into Number 10 (or their party headquarters and departments) at a half-run, as though anxious to make it clear through the television camera that they haven't a moment to lose and have only just been able to make it. It hardly looks very dignified, and if you come to think of it, doesn't actually convince the rest of us that they really take time enough to reflect on where they are going and what they should do. They should try a casual stroll.

To the extent that the hurry is convincing, it shows how right Mrs Thatcher is to want government to do less in hope that what it does it may do better. Time to think is the lost attribute of modern politics, perhaps an even greater loss than independence, the roots outside politics and the willingness to resign on a point of principle enjoyed by the Dukes of Shrewsbury and Omnium. Under Murphy's law, thinking-time is particularly useful.

Politicians do not take enough of it. They have to rely (the weight of their burdens demands it) too much on aides, officials and presenters to think for them. It occurs to me, as this column goes into suspension for a week or two, that they do need their holidays (perhaps even more than I do) and they should have more of them for our sakes as well as their own. Even the most successful of them are not greatly to be envied. The Duke of Shrewsbury grumbled too much. He didn't know how good he was having it.

moreover... Miles Kington

West End's best bet

The other day I went to see a West End musical. I don't normally go to musicals more than about once a decade. My parents took me to see *Salad Days* in the 1950s, which was certainly the best show ever written about a hunt for a piano. I went to see *Hair* in the 1960s, and thought it was nowhere near as good as *Salad Days*. I saw something by Sondheim in the 1970s and thought musicals were still going downhill; and last year I was taken to see *Starlight Express*, and thought musicals had reached rock bottom.

So the other day, when I went to a musical, I must have had a very special reason for going. I did: I didn't know it was a musical. It was, as far as I knew, merely a comedy called *The Gambler*, featuring Mel Smith, which had transferred from the Hampstead Theatre to the Comedy Theatre, and was about to close. Occasionally I am electrified into action by notices that something is closing, and so I sped along to the Comedy, quite unaware that *The Gambler* was a musical.

Well, whatever it is, it's wonderful. It's the story of a compulsive amateur gambler (Bob Goody), shadowed by a professional gambler (Smith), and his 24-hour progress through a race-track, the dogs, a casino and a private poker game, which takes in most of the major forms of gambling except the football pools, always difficult to dramatize.

The four men on stage play lots of parts, from barmaid to bookies, from gangsters to punters. The four musicians behind them drift in and out of the action as song-backers, incidental musicians, even actors. The scenery is mostly confined to chairs, lights and flashing roulette signs. But between them they conjure up so many different vignettes, characters and settings that the mind boggles.

Take one example: the big horse race is portrayed by the four of them standing on chairs, staring through binoculars and reacting to Smith's gradually mounting commentary. Nothing more than that; yet the race is a genuinely exciting one for the audience, as our emotions are blatantly tinkered with by a script that knows that a

more thrilling than the race itself. Take another example: any of the big train races in *Starlight Express*, all of which I found marvellously boring. At the cost of however many millions, the theatre was revamped into a 3-D roller-skating track around which actors went pretending to be trains, accompanied by dreary music and interspersed with unappealing lyrics.

At the cost of a few bob, Mel Smith and his mates - the script is credited to three of the cast - stood on chairs and produced a far more exciting race, through theatrical means. *The Gambler*, by the way, also has good lyrics and extremely interesting, slightly jagged music by Richard Brewster. Andrew Lloyd-Webber is often quoted as saying that he wishes people wouldn't knock him for earning so much money. I think he's wrong: people knock him for not writing better music. I have nothing against him earning so much money - I just can't see how he earns it - and I wouldn't even have dreamt of mentioning it, if it were not that I am enraged to see such a fine musical as *The Gambler* come off at the end of this week, and *Starlight Express* go on until the next century. I gather that the Comedy is being enticed to bring in another show, so it is possible that *The Gambler* may appear somewhere else. Personally, I'd nip out the Victoria Palace and put it on there...

Odd, really, when you think that I like trains and am not much interested in gambling. But then I remember Irving Wardle saying, when *Starlight Express* opened, that train enthusiasts would be the last people to enjoy the show. And I have never met anyone who knew much about Argentina and enjoyed *Evita*... Don't get me wrong, I am not totally anti-*Starlight Express*. The production has some very nice model trains which run through the auditorium. I enjoyed those, rather more than anything else that ran through the auditorium. And they run the model engines before curtain up, so you can enjoy them and leave before the show actually starts.



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SPRIT OF COMPETITION

This year the Department of Trade celebrates 200 years of continuous administrative life. What better way, it might be thought, for the spirit of the old Board of Trade to be magnified than for Mr Paul Channon to announce (as he did yesterday) that he wished to sustain competition in domestic electronics and telecommunications markets and so to forbid a merger between two leading suppliers.

How convenient policy would be, if government could simply invoke Gladstonian free trade verities, utilize the Monopoly and Mergers Commission to keep the supply side competitive and keep its hands off. How clean cut that would be. But how unrealistic.

British capitalism does not work that way, not any more, and certainly not in the supply of electronics and telecommunications equipment. For "competition" (which more often than not means market regulation by monopolistic suppliers) to be made a fetish at this stage is myopic. The State cannot keep its hands off when practically all demand is in the hands of government itself, or monopolistic private purchasers such as British Telecom.

Today's Department of Trade and Industry is concerned with industrial sponsorship, the government's interest in promoting the better organization of industry for the sake of efficiency and international competitiveness. Its officials' evidence to the

Monopolies and Mergers Commission said the merger of the General Electric Company and Plessey could create "an industrial structure in which some of the important challenges facing the electronics industry in the United Kingdom might be addressed." Those challenges come from abroad; without restructuring (fostered, when necessary, by the state) key parts of domestic industry will go under.

In the commission's report, it is the dissentant, Mr Colin Bailieu, who understands this. The telecommunications and defence electronics industries are international. That fact demands backing domestic winners, helping them to the size and sophistication needed to compete. Even to talk about a global market is a trifle naive: there is ITT, AT&T, the Japanese, and a few potential European competitors.

In the terms of that restricted market, nice points about domestic competition have to be severely qualified. The two firms together are smaller than a number of their successful international competitors: their capacity in research and development would inevitably be augmented by their merger.

The merger of GEC and Plessey brooks no textbook principles about competition for the simple reason that the markets, national and international, in which these firms operate conform to no model. The firms already collaborate, primarily on the System X

switchboard: here the commission does want "rationalization" to take place, meaning some merger of the two firms' activities.

Elsewhere the arena of head to head competition between the firms is small, despite the attempt by the Ministry of Defence to quantify the costs of absence of competition in defence electronics tendering. The MOD - which will always have great leverage as a source of demand - lives happily with single suppliers in several areas of procurement.

Merger would not, the MOD admits, kill competitive procurement of electronic equipment. The Government is happy (for it has little choice) to purchase defence equipment from overseas; moreover, the international market for defence electronics is already highly competitive.

The phrase "industrial policy" offends many because of its association with bureaucratic plans for controlling the commanding heights, and second-guessing investors' judgement about profitability. Those associations should not, however, blight the notion that government can legitimately take an interest in shaping an industrial sector and align state policies on procurement and competition accordingly.

The absence of such a policy was a recurrent theme in the Westland affair. The absence of such a policy has, apparently, allowed Mr Channon to bow to the Ministry of Defence and in forbidding this merger make an error of judgement...

NEW VICTIMS, NEW FEARS

If a Government Minister is heard using the word "last" when speaking about the Provisional IRA, it is a reasonable assumption that he has entered the world of wishful thinking. Mr Tom King insisted this week that the IRA had begun murdering civilians who supply the security forces in Northern Ireland as a final bankrupt gesture. There may - and there should - come a time when it will be accurate to talk (as the Prime Minister did at the time of the Maze hunger strike five years ago) of the IRA playing its last card. But that time has not come.

It is not defeatist but realistic to recognise that, in the short run at least, the IRA has discovered a newly effective method of hindering the security forces. The new civilian category under threat must put thousands of people under threat: however strenuous the efforts at protection of the RUC, or however effective the substitution of army labour and expertise, there will still be plenty of frightened individuals and firms.

The maintenance of an effective long-term security policy in Northern Ireland depends on the recognition

that the initiative will sometimes appear to have been won temporarily by the terrorists. Since the signing of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, the IRA has been looking for a new technique to renew in the community the fears which had slightly diminished as a result of security successes of recent years. They were in no particular hurry since they were happy to leave the government and the police with their hands full of unionist opposition for the time being. The Provisionals have been in existence for sixteen years, nothing is to be gained by underestimating their tactical resilience.

But it is also possible to exaggerate the potency of this new development in their campaign. With the interment anniversary at the end of this week, they are guaranteed amplified publicity each summer during the quiet days of August. They have lately avoided much deliberate civilian murder on the cynical calculation that it will undermine their political support in the nationalist community.

That political support currently stands at high levels. Will it survive a campaign

which explicitly threatens the lives of Catholic businessmen and workers? In particular, will that support survive when the only way the intended victims can lift threats against their lives is by losing their jobs? Those additions to the already appalling unemployment levels in the province can hardly improve. Provisional Sinn Fein's fringe.

In a long terrorist campaign against an implacable and well-rooted enemy, it is not easy for a weary public to keep hold of the centrally important fact of the conflict: between terrorist and community. Terrorism, as this episode amply demonstrates, is the creation of fear. Courage, as Mark Twain remarked, is not absence of fear but mastery of it.

Fear of this kind can only be mastered by a community's defenders. To do their job, they themselves must be defended. In this case, the security forces may have to pause while they rearrange their own security arrangements, divert resources to protect those under threat or spend extra money to replace the services of frightened contractors.

TRAVELLING MORE HOPEFULLY

Motorway service stations were conceived as oases - watering holes where drivers could refresh their camels and themselves before taking on 50 more miles of featureless landscape, distant Birmingham shimmering like a mirage under the noonday sun. That was the theory anyway.

In practice, drivers have too often found the motorways welcome relief from the service stations in between - from their queues, crowded lavatories, high prices and mediocre food. There has never very much chance of travelling hopefully.

For this the British public has had only itself to blame. For one thing, the average family leaves behind it a spoor of litter which - thanks to modern science - has been rendered indestructible. Service stations at least centralised the problem which otherwise might have turned the verges of our trunk roads into alfresco restaurants and trash cans.

For another, the standards of service demanded by the populace have always been notoriously low. Even the great British breakfast and the cup of hot strong tea, with which our cuisine has been

identified, have been elusive targets for the discriminating traveller. The public reaction to inadequate standards has been not so much to complain but to turn it all into a long-running joke. This has had its effect over a number of years, to the extent that the modern Blackpool boarding house and the much-maligned British Rail sandwich might now claim to be unfairly done by. But for those who seek faster results, the reaction of British consumers has always been meekly expressed.

The latest report by Which? is welcome therefore for two reasons. In the first place it confirms that this self-appointed consumers' watchdog is still prowling outside its kennel. Its survey of all 56 motorway service stations in five months this year, during which most were visited twice, was a useful exercise.

It is doubly welcome, however, because it would seem to confirm a general rise in standards since the last inspection was carried out six years ago. While criticisms remain, things in the eyes of Which? are definitely looking up.

This is important for reasons which are far from trivial. A great number of tourists

from Europe and elsewhere visit this country every year and take to the roads in their family cars. The motorways are the arteries on which they cruise from one end of Britain to the other, and the service stations are for them part of the national image. And by no means all other nations are as tolerant as this one of indifferent standards of service.

It is also important in the interests of public safety that drivers should be encouraged to stop as often as they can and that when they do, they should find suitable relaxation in pleasant and efficient surroundings. A notoriously poor service station can encourage the weary traveller to carry for a few miles more, at possible risk to himself and others on the road.

The direct blame for poor supervision of standards must be placed on the Government - which does in fact come in for some criticism in the report. But it is pressure from consumers which stirs governments into action - and competition from each other which makes service firms look to their tea urns and prime their pumps. This would seem to have worked this time anyway.

Bleak outlook

From Mr Christopher Carrier Sir, The theatre in London may be apt to hibernate in summer (Arts page, August 4), but surely, in *The Times* it should aestivate. Yours faithfully,

C. CARRIER, 149 Fiedburgh Drive, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, August 4.

Lost awakening?

From Mr Oliver Hinch Sir, Geoffrey Munn's article (July 26) about destruction and vandalism in our decaying cemeteries reminded me of an example of "lawn conversion" in the thirties.

Because of its deplorable state the authorities decided to convert a cemetery in Northampton to a green oasis with seats and trees. They proposed to remove the tombstones and monuments and

place the legible ones on against the surrounding walls, but to ensure the area's recognition as a flat tombstones would be left *in situ*. One morning a workman was seen chalking on the selected tombstones: "Not to come up". Yours etc.

OLIVER HINCH, 27 Lingwood Gardens, Osterley, Middlesex, July 28.

Failure to agree on sanctions

From Mr Dale Scarborough Sir, Your editorial (August 4) supporting Mrs Thatcher's opposition to economic sanctions against South Africa claims to present a rational analysis of the issue, yet I can find in your argument little that could properly be described as rational.

After suggesting, for example, that a "small sacrifice of minor sanctions" should be employed, as a gesture towards Commonwealth unity, you argue that the failure of such sanctions should be taken as proof that sanctions do not work. According to this logic, the inadvisability of painting your house can be deduced from the failure of an inadequate coat of paint.

You argue that the imposition of sanctions would reduce our influence with Pretoria by severing our economic ties with the State. Rational analysis would conclude from this that the British Government should be actively encouraging investment in South Africa. If mutually beneficial economic links are to be used as a political lever, it can only be through the threat of their severance.

It is a sad day when specious arguments are presented in the name of rational analysis. If this is *The Times's* reaction to the South African crisis, no wonder the South African Government treats British policy with contempt.

Yours, DALE SCARBORO, 10 Fairfield Walk, Leckhampton, Gloucestershire, August 4.

From Professor Julius Gould Sir, At least twice in recent days Mr Malcolm Fraser has broadcast his view that the British Government should show itself on "the right side of history" by pursuing his line on the future of South Africa.

This demand is presumptuous and its assumptions are absurd. It is neither sensible nor responsible to claim that history has a "right side". Even if it had one, I suggest, without disrespect, that such momentous knowledge would not be hastily vouchsafed on a privileged basis, to any former Commonwealth prime minister, however vocal and controversial. Yours faithfully, JULIUS GOULD, Reform Club, Pall Mall, SW1, August 1.

From Sir Richard Dobson Sir, This country is at a moment of crisis. Should not the Prime Minister recall Parliament and cause a free vote to be taken in the House of Commons on the matter of sanctions against South Africa? Yours faithfully, RICHARD DOBSON, 16 Marchmont Road, Richmond, Surrey.

From Mr R. J. White Sir, The failure of the Commonwealth summit on South Africa is surely testament to the shoddy performance by a British Prime Minister for many decades.

All-in schools

From Councillor Sidney Grose Sir, In an interesting review of comprehensive schools Anne Sofer (feature, July 28) makes several errors of fact which lead her to conclusions so dated that they offer no new stimulus to the success of a courageous experiment.

Here in Richmond upon Thames the Conservatives in 1973 enthusiastically introduced comprehensive schools and London's first tertiary school in 1977 and have given their unwavering support ever since - as it must be said, have the Alliance party, who took control of the council in 1983. (It is fiction to write of a Conservative attempt to convert to a selective system in 1984 causing them to lose control of a council of which they had already lost control in 1983).

Where Anne Sofer's assessment of the comprehensive system is faulty is that she is obsessed with

Market forces on market places

From Mr Harvey R. Cole Sir, In virtually every highly populated part of the country plans are being put forward for large so-called "regional" shopping centres. At present at least 47 are awaiting determination.

Whilst there is undoubtedly a role to be played by a limited number of such developments it is essential that they should be carefully sited so as to ensure against over-development. The planning system needs to be invoked for this purpose; the issues raised cannot be satisfactorily left to market forces alone.

In certain cases, however, - where, for example, the rules of a particular enterprise zone do not rule out retail development or where a local district council owns a site - planning permission can be forthcoming almost automatically, and with no proper evaluation of proposals.

So far from discouraging a piecemeal approach to the problem, the Government seems to be encouraging it. On occasion, as for example at Whitstable, the secretary of state has approved, on appeal, smaller superstore developments in circumstances which, it is agreed, allow scope for only one, leaving competition to determine the outcome.

More seriously still, in Penzance, he recently accepted the principle that although one of three sites proposed for shopping development was clearly the best, that was not, in itself, "a relevant consideration".

All such schemes should be called in automatically by the Department of the Environment and a special inquiry, on the lines of a planning commission, should be held for each of the country's conurbations of other areas which attract these applications. Yours etc, HARVEY R. COLE, 9 Clifton Road, Winchester, Hampshire.

National Gallery

From Mr T. H. Hughes-Davies Sir, War is much too serious a thing to be left to military men or education to teachers, medicine to doctors, papers to editors, or ships to masters.

Management has reached the National Gallery, and is even eyeing the lawyers. Mr. Gould (August 5) should not expect a scholar in charge rather than in attendance. Yours sincerely, T. H. HUGHES-DAVIES, Slades Cottage, Breamore, Fordingbridge, Hampshire.

Sex and the Church

From Father Peter Knott, SJ Sir, In his article, "Cynicism and sexual morality", August 4, Clifford Longley gives the impression that the Catholic Church believes that sex has been designed by God for one single purpose which is the reproduction of the species.

The following quote from the second Vatican Council should help to correct this view: Marriage is not merely for the procreation of children: its nature as an indissoluble compact between two people and the good of the children demand that the mutual love of the partners be properly shown, that this love should grow and mature. Even in cases where despite the intense desire of the spouses there are no children marriage still retains the character of being a whole manner and communion of life and preserves its value and indissolubility (*Gaudium et Spes*, 50).

Yours faithfully, PETER KNOTT, St Anthony's, Slough, Berkshire.

Wrong rig

From Mr F. R. Welsh Sir, I hope nautical readers will not take too seriously the picture of our trimme you published on July 31. The mast and sails of the model have been rigged the wrong way round, giving the unfortunate vessel something of the appearance of the "push-me-pull-you".

When ready for sea trials, which are planned for April, 1987, they will, I trust, be correctly mounted.

Boris Rankov, of St Hugh's College, Oxford, is recruiting a crew of oarsmen for the trials, and will be happy to hear from suitable volunteers.

Yours faithfully, FRANK WELSH (Director, The Trireme Trust), Bridge House, Bridge Street, Bungay, Suffolk.

Worst enemy?

From Mr Ray Ward Sir, I'm not surprised the Northern Ireland MPs were cross about Professor Thompson's Bills (Access to Foodshops) Bill (letter, August 1). Perhaps the professor told them of his apparent belief that Northern Ireland is part of Great Britain.

Yours faithfully, RAY WARD, 38 Lancaster Gate, W2.

Great Eastern

From Mrs H. P. Madden Sir, I write with reference to your letters (July 30, August 2) on the Great Eastern laying the first Atlantic cable. My great-grandfather, Sir Curtis Lampton, vice chairman of the Atlantic Telegraph Company, sent a message from the Valencia station on August 17, 1858. It commenced 2-33, ended 2-41 and read, "We get your current but can't make word out".

I have a piece of that cable, a small portion of the actual message in Morse code. Yours faithfully, JANE W. MADDEN, 3 Old Rectory Close, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich, Norfolk, August 4.

that they are suitable for consideration by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council might imply the naturalness of conventions that, while they may be recognised to exist by the courts, the courts cannot enforce a convention and certainly not against the sovereignty of Parliament if enacted in statute.

Letters to the Editor

Failure to agree on sanctions

Market forces on market places

National Gallery

Sex and the Church

Wrong rig

Great Eastern

Worst enemy?

The Queen's role

Loss of a ship

Loss of a ship

Loss of a ship

Loss of a ship

Loss of a ship

Loss of a ship

Loss of a ship

Loss of a ship

Loss of a ship

ON THIS DAY

AUGUST 7 1821

PIRACY AND MURDER.

(Extract of a letter, dated Stormaw, July 27.)

... Late on Monday, the 23d inst., when blowing a hard gale from the southward, I received intimation from a Mr. Mac Iver, tacksman of the farm of Tolstoy, near the But of the Lewis, that on Sunday evening his tenants had perceived a wreck at some distance from the land, and that on going towards her they discovered the wreck to be a copper-bottomed schooner, waterlogged, and on her beam ends; that they made fast to her, in hopes of being able to bring the wreck to some place of safety, in which they would have probably and eventually succeeded, but for the gale of wind which had just then come on, and which drove the vessel that night on shore into a cove near Tolstoy-head. In the morning it was discovered that the vessel's paring, that her cargo consisted of hogsheads of oil, bees-wax, paper, &c. which were floating about in all directions.

On my rising early the next morning (Tuesday) I met the collector of customs, who informed me that a boat's crew had been surprised the preceding evening, within a few miles of Stormaw, which, from the information of a boy who had turned King's evidence, proved to have been a set of pirates, who had murdered their captain and a seaman; and having plundered the ship of a considerable quantity of specie off the east side of the island, on Sunday morning last, scuttled the vessel and abandoned her, but were, from the interposition of Providence, prevented by the gale of wind from effecting their purpose of reaching the main land. The crew being immediately made prisoners, a precept was taken before four magistrates, and at which I attended for three days, and the following narrative is a brief statement of what was elucidated from them:

The schooner *Jeon*, of about 100 tons, owned by a Jew house of the name of Louis, or Lewis, at Gibraltar, loaded there in the month of May a cargo, consisting of sweet oil, bees-wax, jars of olives, paper, &c., and 38,000 to 40,000 dollars in specie, and sailed from thence on the 19th of May; her crew consisting of the master, Thomas Johnson, the mate, Peter Higgins, a British, one Italian, one French seaman, and a Maltese boy; the captain, and Paterson, seaman, were murdered on the morning of the 7th of June, then in 6th degree north lat., when piratical possession was taken of the vessel, and her papers thrown overboard. After various schemes being proposed, it was resolved to steer north, for the Lewisies, and afterwards to land on the east of Scotland with the specie; they first made the north of Ireland, then the island of Barra, where they bought a large boat, for which they paid about 15l. The Captain now, formerly mate, assuming the name of Rogers, and pretending to be from New York, bound to Archanal.

On last Saturday morning they sailed from thence, and steered their course to the northward, inside of the Long Island, until being in the evening abreast of Stormaw, they ascended a vessel which took to be a cutter; this immediately caused them to alter their former resolution, and induced them to determine on abandoning the schooner, and making the best of their way to the main land in the large boat. Having accordingly proceeded to the northward, they collected their specie, and shipped the same into the boat, with their other effects, and having scuttled the schooner, finally abandoned her. They then steered for the main land, when next morning they were providentially overtaken by the gale of wind which forced them to put into the creek in which they were discovered; they at first came to a grapple, and continued some time riding by it, but at length were driven ashore, and the boat struck. This put them under the necessity of securing the specie, and they accordingly hurried the greater part of it in the sand, and the rest they concealed among the baggage, every man's share being previously divided, and sewed up in canvass bags, each taking charge of his own, trusting that they could have repaired their boat and put to sea again when the weather moderated. In this situation they were surprised by the officers of customs, when the pretended captain, under the name of Ledly, (having formerly at Barra gone under the name of Rogers), trumped up a story of shipwreck, and said that he had been mate of a ship from New York to Liverpool (The Maltese boy, however, found an opportunity of communicating to the Surveyor of Customs the information of the atrocious act that had been committed. They were immediately made prisoners, and after a very minute investigation before the magistrates, they fully admitted the facts communicated by the boy.

Degree of doubt

From Mr M. T. Phillips Sir, According to your correspondent (report, July 29) British Rail has a number of crossings in the pipeline... but these will now be put on ice.

Though contrasting in degrees Celsius, this reminds one of the beleaguered football manager who, when asked last season what he intended to do about his team's plight, replied that he had several irons in the fire, but that he was keeping them close to his chest.

Yours faithfully, M. T. PHILLIPS, 12 The Mall, East Sheen, SW14.

Dicey's legal understanding and meaning

Little could be gained from a codification of conventions as they are presently unwritten, sometimes they are obscure, and they are non-legal rules of the Constitution. This is not to diminish the importance of conventions, because they properly accepted political practices which are not enforced by the courts.

Yours sincerely, JOHN F. McELDOWNEY, University of Warwick, School of Law, Coventry, West Midlands, July 30.

Loss of a ship

From Dr J. F. McDowd Sir, Constitutional conventions, according to Dicey, were intended as "a whole system of political morality, a whole code of precepts for the guidance of public men". By their nature they represent the morality of the Constitution, but as they are unwritten they are difficult to enforce. When given a legal meaning, Dicey distinguished conventions from law and believed that conventions "are not in reality laws at all since they are not enforced by the courts".

Geoffrey Marshall (feature, July 28) obscures Dicey's legal meaning of conventions. His suggestion

that they are suitable for consideration by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council might imply the naturalness of conventions that, while they may be recognised to exist by the courts, the courts cannot enforce a convention and certainly not against the sovereignty of Parliament if enacted in statute.

His suggestion that conventions are akin to the common law when he writes that "questions of precedent and principle that define constitutional conventions are not widely different from those involved in disputed questions of common law" runs counter to

THE ARTS

Television
Mystery
selling

Diverse Reports (Channel 4) bowed out with a quick examination of the way that the media have managed to create an aura of mystique around crack - the smokeable, potentially lethal refinement of cocaine hydrochloride which has earned handsome column-inches and air-time before it has substantially arrived on the British drug scene.

The programme argued that such coverage has inadvertently (and, perhaps, callously) had an effect similar to the Government's disastrous overstatement of the case against heroin. This was hardly borne out by the vox-pop interviews: some had heard of the drug, others had not (in other words, some read newspapers and watch television, others do not).

The main thrust consisted of inviting an advertising agency to imagine that a client had requested a campaign for the substance, and to this end a couple of rag-headed copywriters prepared a market strategy. It would of course be monstrous to suggest that anyone involved in this report had ever put anything more interesting than sniff up his nose, but it was a ludicrous irony to see members of one of the professions supposedly associated with cocaine abuse straight-facedly discussing the target group for their putative product.

As to the moral question of Press responsibility (or lack of it) in promoting an unhealthy response through sensationalism, it scarcely behoves anyone to wax pious about the media when they habitually expend so much energy in the pursuit of indirect advertising, otherwise known as "hype". Perhaps the most valuable information presented here was the oblique insight into this grey area.

Black and white were the dominant colours of *Drums Along Balmoral Drive* (BBC2). Douglas Livingstone's play about the after-effects of majority rule in Zimbabwe conjured up a beleaguered outpost of Empire where the supplies of fish-paste had run out and the native white engineer had to make do with monochrome television while his new black boss enjoyed a colour set.

The play's framing device was awkward (and possibly redundant) and the implied personal tragedy never achieved lift-off, but Colin Blakely and Rowena Cooper graced their wincing acceptance of their new position with some excellent lemon-chewing smiles.

Martin Cropper

Summerscope

Brathwaite/
Johnson
Purcell Room

The haunting cry, high up in the head, of "Strawberry" and the languid lullaby of "Summertime" from *Porgy and Bess*, were encores which understandably brought the house down in Maureen Brathwaite's recital on Tuesday night. For those who had seen her at Glyndebourne, the songs record the electricity of her stage presence in the production there. For everyone in the audience, they set the seal on the bright-eyed generosity and spontaneous warmth which had characterized her recital.

So direct and distinctive is her mode of communication, so vigorous and tireless her wide-ranging soprano, that her programme, called "I Have a Dream", could have spoken most potently for itself. Graham Johnson, however, was her accompanist. Taking as a starting-point the quirk of colonial history that caused him, as a white, to be born in Southern Africa and she, as a black, to be born in South London, he provided a Songmakers-style commentary to the entire evening, with characteristic cunning of matter and contrivance of manner.

We learnt much about the indignities suffered by Lena Horne and Marian Anderson, about Wilhelm Gross, Werner deprivacy and his "Zwölf kleine Negerlein", and of the reforming zeal of Coleridge-Taylor. But the music itself taught us still more the simplicity of Charles Ives's arrangement of "In the Morning Give Me Jesus"; the monospinning gaiety of Irving Berlin's "He's a Rag Picker"; and the verbal and rhythmic energy of Montsalvage's *Canciones Negras*.

This was the repertoire in which Miss Brathwaite excelled. Milhaud's *Chansons de negresse* needed just more control of nuance and inflexion than her voice, at times ill-focused when constraint is imposed on her heavy vibrato, is as yet able to give.

Hilary Finch

Theatre: the Avignon Festival
Massive clouds
of verbosity

Forty festivals on, Avignon has grown from a modest arts week with two theatrical venues into a four-week event with 30 productions in 20 different places, a budget of £2 million and a thriving fringe of some 300 shows. But this creative cornucopia throws into high relief France's current dramatic dilemma. No one seems to be writing plays for the French theatre any more. This year's festival is dominated by adaptations of foreign works and performances whose actionless verbosity is better heard than seen.

Shakespeare's *The Tempest* opened the festival. A complacent new production directed by Alfredo Arias with Pierre Dux as Prospero and indifferently adapted into French by Jean-Louis Curtis, it is saved by the open-air magic of the Cour d'Honneur of the Palais des Papes. Roberto Platte's set cleverly re-creates a fragment of the Cour's splendid architecture and places it on a sandy island surrounded by wind-rippled water. Clotilde Mollet is a delightfully ethereal Ariel who, by a well-timed use of doubles, contrives to be in three places at once. Remarkable as much for her physical metamorphosis as for her primeval ape-like interpretation is Marija Marini as Caliban.

The main aim of Avignon is, however, to stimulate new French dramatic works and provide a lively trying ground for public-funded productions, destined for Paris and other state-aided theatres around France. *Le Malheur* indifferently and *L'Enfant* are due to go to one of the capital's quasi-fringe theatres. Both pieces are gleaned from the writings of Peter Handke and directed by Jeanne Champagne. *Le Malheur* is a shared monologue between mother and

son, laying bare the reasons for the former's suicide. *Enfant* is a straight monologue dissecting the transition from being just a man to becoming a father. The admirable performers do their utmost to put flesh on what are basically two excellent radio plays, but not theatre.

There is no shortage of text in the three-hour *Le Drame de la vie* premières scènes, written, directed and designed by Valère Novarina. Here, the surfeit of words is matched by incessant movement. It is to be regretted there is no apparent correlation between the two; perhaps the promised *Deuxième Scènes* will bring cohesion.

A new production of Hugo von Hofmannsthal's *Venise* survives again in more than ample verbal content. This drifts sporadically out through an unifying, realistic mist which obscures the audience, the actors, André Engel's direction and, one is told, Nicky Rieti's unforgettable set.

The new production of Schiller's *Don Carlos* is visible enough, but the nauseous green décor would greatly benefit from several shrouds of mist. The cast, headed by Marthe Keller and Gerard Desarthe, deserves praise. Michelle Marquis's direction, however, requires considerable honing before the piece opens in Paris this autumn.

Around a dozen writers were invited by the festival to create a short work around the theme *Oser Aimier* (*Dare to Love*). Some failed to meet the deadline, other were rejected, either by the performing company, the Théâtre Ouvert, or the chosen director, Jeanne Labrunie. Played in the Hospice Saint-Louis, one of the festival's new open-air venues, with its intimate, crumbling architectural backdrop,



The open-air magic of the Cour d'Honneur of the Palais des Papes redeeming an otherwise indifferent *Tempest*

sheltered by rustling plane trees, the five remaining pieces - given over two evenings - would make an interesting collection of short stories, or even a radio series. They are not visual theatre, however.

Despite this dearth of the real thing and an unusually aggressive French Press, there is hardly a seat to be had for any of the productions for what has come to be known as the "in". Hordes of hopefuls nightly turn up at all the venues waiting for returns. The "off" does not yet have this powerful charisma. Tolerated by the "in" when the first young companies began infiltrating the festival in the middle Sixties - playing in everything from boulangeries to back

gardens - the "off" has steadily gained ground. Since 1982 it has become legitimate, and today it has successfully shed its café theatre image to emerge as true fringe theatre, a term which is still to find its way into the French language.

Unlike the "in", where short runs are the norm - sometimes for only a handful of performances - "off" productions as often as not play through the festival. Daily, the town wades through waves of publicity hand-outs for this year's record number of shows, which like the "in" includes music, dance and cinema. Success in the "off", however, has very little to do with hand-outs; it depends on word of

Taking part in the "off" is an expensive affair: companies must pay their own way, even if the money mostly comes out of a grant. Consequently they play safe with a 50-seat venue, only to find themselves squeezing in 70 and turning away 100. Fortunately, Avignon has a higher-than-average number of 100- to 200-seat permanent theatres, who share their stages with visiting companies. Most shows last around an hour and, with good timing, a detailed street map, plenty of stamina and at least £25 a day to spend on tickets, it is possible to take in up to five events daily.

One of the most outstanding "off" productions is *La Barque*,

written and directed by Gérard Gelas and performed by his Avignon-based company *Chêne Noir*. Technically superior to many a major Paris production - water flows and fire leaps across the stage - the piece recounts the activities of an agency who, in exchange for all your worldly goods, arranges your suicide in circumstances of your choosing. The suicidal client in *La Barque* chooses a weekend on a mythical boat. Stunning, surrealistic sets, Pinteresque dialogue and two finely worked performances from Nicole Aublat and Jean-Marc Avocat combine to intrigue, disturb and entertain.

Diane Hill

Promenade Concert
Slow to gather momentum

English Concert/
Pinnock
Albert Hall/Radio 3

Handel's *Solomon*, masterpiece though it is, is a work for which contemporary sensibilities must make adjustment, as they must for any baroque oratorio. Its drama is, to say the least, both slowly paced and simple, as well as being chopped into three unrelated episodes. But that is not the point. For Handel paints his characters and situations with painstaking exactitude, so that our pleasure - and there is an infinite amount to be had - derives not from dramatic continuity but from a series of static views. The only exception is the scene depicting the dispute of the Harlots and Solomon's judgement.

Even so, Trevor Pinnock's performance, with the choir and orchestra of the English Concert and an array of singers whose voices were so conspicuously on the large side for a period-style interpretation, began a mite sluggishly. The dominant emotion of Act I may be amorous, and the sequence of arias towards the end of the act is undoubtedly something to linger over to a degree, but Pinnock here went to extremes, thus rather over-exaggerating the pastoral element.

He made ample amends thereafter, however, generating the rhythmic crispness we are accustomed to in his music-making. Perhaps that initial problem may have been down to Pinnock bowing to the work's Utopian vision and allowing his singers their full say in matters of pace. Certainly individually they were able to produce the most convincing results, with the unhappy exception of Ian Caley who as Zadok sang rather messily, often under the note, and with distinct awkwardness in matters of line and tone.

That distraction should not be allowed to cloud the immense achievement of Felicity Palmer in the title role. Majestic as a king, humble as a devout and grateful servant of God, chivalrous and delicately sensual as a lover, she had the

measure of every subtle emotion contained in her plentiful contributions.

The other star - present, alas, only in the third act - was Arleen Auger as the Queen of Sheba, whose aria "Will the sun forget to streak?", deliciously accompanied by gently throbbing strings with oboe and flute providing a simple but effective unison obbligato, was at once wondrously serene and noble.

Of the supporting roles, Jennifer Smith, though sometimes idiosyncratic in technique, was touching as the First Harlot, while Della Jones was aptly impetuous as the Second. Marie McLaughlin, Solomon's Queen, sang with perhaps too assertive a manner, though her Act I duet with her king was ravishing. Stephen Roberts richly turned the role of the Levite into one of real significance. There was much excellent work from the choir, too, who themselves had some miraculous material to relish, not least the magnificent closing chorus.

Stephen Pettitt

Dance
The Golden Age
Covent Garden

Two more of the Bolshoi Ballet's leading men have followed Irek Mukhamedov into the leading role of *The Golden Age*, and it has to be said that neither of them has even attempted most of the trick steps with which he decorates solos. Without them, it becomes more conventional, although still conceived and danced on a boldly heroic scale.

Yuri Vasyuchenko is the more experienced and the more successful. Andris Liepa, making his first attempt at the role on Tuesday, lacks nothing in daring, but Vasyuchenko conveys more of the sense of purpose in the young patriot fighting gangsters. They both had the benefit of Alla Mikhailchenko as the slightly ambiguous heroine Rita, full of fine thoughts but apparently whole-hearted in her employment as a showgirl in a seedy club. With her extraordinarily long legs, radiant face and flexible, slender physique, she convulses in both sides of the character.

The other leading part for a woman, the gangster's moll, looks a sure-fire bit, with Maria Bylova perhaps the most perky beguiling of its three interpreters but not a lot to choose between them. As the gangster, Vitaly Artyushkin has the more impressive appearance, Alexei Lazarev the sharper, more arrogant manner, but neither gives the part quite the dominant edge I imagine was intended.

In addition to the considerable demands it makes on its leading dancers, *The Golden Age* is remarkable for the enormous cast it deploys, at least 80 or 90 performers. There is no ballet company in Britain that could put out such a cast, in quality as well as quantity. True, some of them are not asked to do much more than swarm over or round the stage waving banners, or to strike voluptuously decadent attitudes during a tango. But among them are quite a few who exult in great forceful leaps, building a crescendo of movement up to the climactic moment when the principals burst triumphantly upon the scene.

Andrei Buravtsev and Mikhail Sharkov, as the leaders of Boris's followers, maintain a buoyant energy through innumerable entries that have them leaping, revolving and cartwheeling with a bravura that could sustain major roles but is here almost a throw-away among the crowd effects. I must mention particularly Mikhail Tsvin, the master of ceremonies at the night-club. The role carries more than a whiff of Joel Grey's performance in *Cabaret*, but it avoids the effete quality that clings to most imitations.

My apologies for two errors caused by the hazards of telephonic communication in my notice yesterday. *Raymonda* has many solos, not mini-solos, and Gelsey Kirkland, although an older dancer than Trinidad Sevilano, is by no means an old dancer.

John Percival



Persuasive anti-hero, dashing burlesque: Brian Deacon (left), Philip Bowen

Theatre in London
The wisdom for enjoyment

Arms and the
Man
Regent's Park

Shaw's first comedy is a surprisingly short piece that whirrs past, despite its two intervals, in little more than a couple of hours. Never again did he manage to convey wisdom so enjoyably. And in Bulgaria, of all places.

Ruritania had only just been discovered when Shaw pulled the carpet out from under the idiosyncies of romantic heroism with the practical good sense and clear thinking of his Captain Bluntschli. A Swiss professional soldier - only fighting for Serbia because it came first on the road from Switzerland - he knows that food means more than cartridges when a soldier is fleeing from the enemy.

This altogether admirable anti-hero, played with persua-

sive charm by Brian Deacon, hursts into a household where the ideas of the servants may be practical enough but those of their employers are a muddle of misty idealism and self-doubt. It is perceptive to give, quite early on, both to Raina, the girl who shelters Bluntschli, and to her magnificently absurd fiancé Sergius, their moments of uncertainty. Are they as heroic as they think they are? Can noble illusions be enough? No difficulty guessing the answers these questions get.

For an open-air production it is unhelpful that the night-time scene is placed at the start of the evening, when (weather permitting) the mackerel sky above is still white against pale blue. But at least we see Bulgarian soldiers chase their fugitive round the audience before he clambers into Raina's bedroom. Simon Higlett's sets are backed with simply worked wooden posts

and patterned rugs; while it is a pity not to have the last act set in Bulgaria's joke attempt at a library, the loss is not a great one.

David Conville's direction encourages Philip Bowen to carry the dashing Sergius almost over into burlesque. I suppose this is all right when the squawky heroics the part satirizes have long since vanished from the theatre. Leaning over backwards in elegance, his constant search for objects to place one foot upon reaches its comic climax when he thrusts his foot on to the fragile seat of a cane chair. Sarah Woodward manages most of the veering moods of Raina, better, at suggesting genuine love than bogus adoration. But Sue Hodge's sparkly little maid substitutes pertness for the required defiance of an underdog on the way up.

Jeremy Kingston

take half an hour to introduce his characters, and odder yet that this should be done (by Graham Turner) in the manner of a dramatized CSE lesson on the black economy.

In a basement sweatshop, Muslim, Hindu and West Indian women are sewing for 30p a garment. Their penny-pinching Cypriot boss (Mr Yarrow himself) tries to cut their piece-rate in response to cheap imports from Bangkok; the workers take over, raise a banner and sing the "International"; finally, most of them perish in a fire caused by faulty electrics.

There are agreeable performances from Penny Rider as a chirpy cockney and from Tom Mannion as an obstreperous presser (a marvellous impersonation of slack-mouthed stupidity), but the play's polemical intent is overt, lead-

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Galleries
Musical
Instruments
Crafts Council

If there is any field of art or craft which would incline one unquestioningly to accept the old equation of beauty-equals-fitness to function, the making of musical instruments must surely be it. The show of *Musical Instruments* at the Crafts Council Galleries until August 31 consists of two interlinked parts, a display of classic musical instruments, from a wide variety of cultures, collected by the late David Munrow, and the second Crafts Council Open Exhibition of contemporary instrument-making. And there is hardly a discordant note to be found anywhere in either.

Evidently there has been a widespread revival during the last few years, not only in the making of current modern instruments but in the construction of new equivalents to until-recently obsolete instruments for the performance of early music in as nearly as possible its original forms. Some of the most exquisite new pieces here present are things like baroque viols and Renaissance lutes, frequently modelled very closely on specific surviving instruments, but none the less impressive for that.

It is pleasing, however, to see that on the whole modern instrument-makers, when left more on their own to create without guidance beyond the practical requirements of the eventual players, can come up with something just as elegant and usually much less ornate: some of the harps, for instance, achieve a very effective, strongly modern look within the traditional and necessary form of the instrument.



Kevin Renton with his peculiar "Instant Harp"

There are also new oddities, like Kevin Renton's Instant Harp, made as we are told out of plastic, bamboo, tree-branch and fishing-line, or David Sawyer's aptly labeled "Slither", of wood and steel. These would look thoroughly at home among the more exotic pieces from the Munrow Collection, which include such mysteries (to the layman at least) as a Renaissance great bass racket (a sort of wind instrument), an alto schreyerpfife and a bass kortholt, as well as instruments from Tibet, Mo-

rocco, Norway, India and many far-flung places where they make music. Irrespective of the function, and the instruments' fitness to it, there is much here to admire as one might admire sculpture. But no doubt the discipline of fitting form to function, and the feeling of a strong tradition which one breaks with at one's peril, must all contribute to the strength and lucidity of the final effect.

John Russell Taylor

PAINTING IN SCOTLAND • The Golden Age
Duncan MacMillan
Don't miss this unique exhibition at the Edinburgh Festival and Tate Gallery of the greatest period in Scottish painting and sculpture to enjoy the Golden Age in this outstanding book *Painting in Scotland*.
7116 2081 100 117 95
7116 2082 95 117 95



Moscow set to announce test ban decision

Moscow (Reuters) — The Soviet Union will announce within the next few days whether it will continue its moratorium on tests of nuclear weapons, in force since August 1985, a deputy foreign minister said today.

"Many statements and political figures abroad have addressed and are addressing the Soviet government" about an extension, Mikhail Kapitsa told a news conference.

"This question will be considered with due regard for these appeals and according to how far, in our opinion, the United States is seriously prepared to negotiate an end to nuclear tests."

The Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, declared the moratorium on August 6 last year to mark the 40th anniversary of the atomic bombing of the Japanese city of Hiroshima. It was extended in January, then in March and again after the April 26 nuclear power station accident at Chernobyl.

Mr Gorbachev has repeatedly asked the United States to follow suit, but President Reagan's Administration has turned down Soviet appeals on the grounds that tests are needed to maintain the US nuclear deterrent and that problems of verification are unresolved.

In the past few days, the official Soviet press has published many articles quoting public figures in Western and non-aligned countries as supporting or expressing sympathy with the Soviet line on nuclear weapons.

Gorbachev said last month that he would give careful consideration to international appeals for Moscow to extend its test moratorium, but added the Soviet decision would depend on the US approach to arms control.

He has also suggested that a nuclear weapons test ban could form the basis of an agreement at his next summit with President Reagan. The two leaders agreed in Geneva last November to meet again this year.

● **STOCKHOLM:** Swedish defence experts have reported that the number of nuclear tests throughout the world has fallen sharply this year as a direct result of the Soviet test moratorium (Reuters reports).

A spokesman for the Swedish Defence Research Institute said 12 underground tests had been carried out, by the US, France and Britain, during the first seven months of 1986, compared with a total of 20 worldwide during the same period last year. The Soviet Union conducted seven tests last year.

Close Senate vote for Star Wars funding

From Michael Binyon, Washington

President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative has narrowly survived two attempts in the Senate at further budget cuts, though the close vote of the day, and the sharp criticism of the programme, pointed to growing Congressional disenchantment and opposition to any increase in Pentagon spending.

President Reagan wants \$3.3 billion for the SDI in 1987. This has already been cut back to \$3.9 billion by the Senate armed services committee, and two proposals

would have further cut it to either \$3.5 or \$3.2 billion. By a one-vote majority of 50-49, however, the Senate agreed to authorize the \$3.9 billion, itself a 28 per cent increase in the research programme's spending for this year.

The vote came during a debate of the full defence budget for 1987, which the Republican-controlled Senate has set at \$295 billion, a little above the House's figure of \$292 billion, but sharply below the President's request for \$320 billion.

Yachtsman hurt during royal race at Cowes



The unconscious yachtsman shortly after the accident (left), and being strapped to a stretcher in the press launch for transfer to the helicopter (Photographs: Julian Herbert)

A yachtsman competing at Cowes, Isle of Wight, in the same race as the Duke of Edinburgh yesterday was taken to hospital by a Royal Navy helicopter after being knocked unconscious.

He was crewing on the ocean racer Blazer, which was among 28 vessels competing in the 27-mile race for the

Camrose Trophy, when he was struck by the boom. He was transferred still unconscious to a press launch and then winched into the helicopter and taken to hospital.

The Duke and ex-King Constantine of Greece took turns at the helm of the yacht Yeoman XXVI. They finished in

10th place. It was the Duke's final appearance at Cowes Week.

Shortly after the start of yesterday's race the mast of the red and white yacht Marfouette, which Prince and Princess Michael of Kent helped to crew on Tuesday, had buckled and crashed to the deck.



The injured sailor on his way to hospital at Gosport

GEC's bid for Plessey is blocked

Continued from page 1

markets for telecommunications and electronics. He also criticized the minister for accepting a report which was at odds with the evidence from his own department. Department of Trade and Industry officials considered that a takeover would be desirable towards meeting overseas competition.

Sir John Clark, chairman and chief executive of Plessey, welcomed the veto.

The commission's report suggests that, even without a takeover, competitive pressures in the market for exchanges would lead either to a sale by GEC or Plessey of its System X interests to the other, the setting up of a jointly owned company, or the rationalization of both companies' interests.

Petrol price campaign

Continued from page 1

over the past six months been able to convert cheap oil at massive profits for sale to the motorist.

While the oil companies say that they are now "making on the roundabouts" what they have "lost on the swings," the Government has quietly told them that the motorist should not be used to keep overall oil company profits up.

Britain's motorists should still be able to benefit from the petrol price war on the forecourts over the August Bank Holiday, despite former crude oil prices in the wake of the latest agreement by members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) to trim output.

Prices at the pumps will inevitably rise because of higher crude prices, but it will be only those stations offering bargain prices which will post price rises.

The average price will still remain below £1.65 gallon and promotional campaigns, offering cash prizes and free glasses and picnic boxes will remain.

Motorist who have been reaping the benefits of localized price wars, which have sent prices below £1.50 a gallon, will find that they will have to pay more.

The stations they use have been supplied with petrol from the Rotterdam market, where there has been a glut of four-star petrol. Now that world crude oil prices are rising, stocks of cheap petrol have been quickly absorbed by the European retail market.

Crude oil now being bought at the new higher prices will take six weeks from the September 15 delivery date to travel from the North Sea through the refineries to the forecourts. However, most of the big oil companies have been arguing

for several weeks that present pump prices are unprofitable. They have been supporting dealers to meet localized price-cutting campaigns and say that a price level of £1.64 is needed to cover costs, even using crude oil bought in at nearer \$10 a barrel.

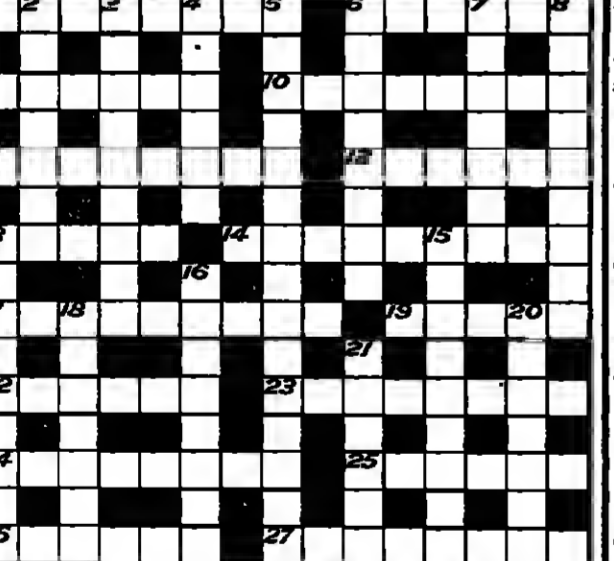
At present, a company selling petrol at £1.58 a gallon has 41p from which to meet its crude oil costs, its transport costs and its refining costs. The Government takes 88.1p in excise duty, 20.6p in VAT and the average forecourt operator takes 7.5p profit.

Higher crude prices will eat into the oil-company profit margin, but the Government takes the view that while the profit margin is eroded the production side of their business, the "upstream" side as the oil companies describe it, will rise to cancel out the losses.

Today's events

Royal engagements
Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother visits the Black Isle Show, The Showground, Muir of Ord, Ross-shire, 12.30
Exhibitions in progress
Mixed Arts and Crafts Frame Museum, 1 North Parade, Thurston, Sat 10 to 4, closed Thurs (ends Aug 29)
Tierra y Libertad: photographs of Mexico 1900-1935; Collins Gallery, University of Strathclyde, 22 Richmond St, Glasgow, Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 12 to 4 (ends Aug 23)
Ceramics by David Frith and Naomi Ogilvie-Brown, paintings by Christa Gaa and Pat Hurley; St James's Gallery, 9 Margaret's Buildings, Bath, Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30 (ends Aug 10)
23rd Summer Exhibition: works by 75 gallery artists; Colin Jellicoe Gallery, 82 Portland St, Manchester, Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Sat 1 to 5 (ends Sept 13)
Midsummer Exhibition of Watercolours and Oils; The Wykeham Galleries, Stockbridge, Tues to Sat 10 to 5 (ends Aug 30)
Landscape place, nature, material; Kettle's Yard Gallery, Castle St, Cambridge, Tues to Sat 12.30 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5.30 (ends Aug 31)
Hand Signals: works by various artists around the theme of hands; Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery, Priestgate, Tues to Sat 12 to 5 (ends Aug 16)
Landscape Photographic work by Thomas Cooper, Hamish Fulton, Andrew Ginn, Goto and Eachus, Jim Harold, Roger Palmer and Chris Wainwright; Cambridge Darkroom, Dales Brewery, Gwydir St, Tues to Sat 12 to 6, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Aug 21)
Works by Henry Tietzsch-Tyler; St Paul's Gallery, Stowe House, 5 Bishopgate, St. Leonards, Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 12 (ends Aug 9)
Focus on Tiles: history, use and decoration; Derby Museum and Art Gallery, The Strand, Tues to Sat 10 to 5 (ends Aug 23)
Last chance to see The Home of One Hundred Trades; City Centre Foyer, Darwell St, Walsall, 9 to 6.
Music
Concert by the Medici String Quartet; Lounge Hall, Harrogate, 8.
Recital by the Lindsay String Quartet and Ian Brown (piano); Theatre to the Forest, Grizeley, 8.
Organ recital by Roy Massey; St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, 7.30.
Talks and lectures
How to trace your Ancestors; by Annesley Malley; Portland Centre, Portland, 8.
Poems and Poets of Lakeland; by Ron Sands; Lake District National Park Visitor Centre, Brockhole, Windermere, 3.30.
Sword, Lance and Bayonet (talk); Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Rd, SE1, 11.30.
Dress and Writing and War; by Imogen Stewart, 11; Persian and Turkish dress, by Jennifer Wearden; Victoria & Albert Museum, SW7, 12.30.
Humming Birds, by Joyce Pope; Natural History Museum, Cromwell Rd, SW7, 3.
Rocks that Form on the Earth's Surface: Rocks that Originate Underground (film); Geological Museum, Exhibition Rd, SW7, 2.30.
German Expressionism: Kandinsky and Beckmann, by Pat Turner, 11; Oskar Koschka, by Laurence Bradbury; Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1, 6.30.
George Orwell: The Road to Wigan Pier (film), 11; The Printer's Tale (film); The British Library, Great Russell St, 2.
Women and War, 1915-1985: From the Hague Conference to Greenham Common, by Dr Joan Byles; University Women's Room, 2 Audley Sq, W1, 6.30.
Poetry reading by Gavin Smart, Alison Fell and Diana Livingstone; October Gallery, 24 Old Gloucester St, WC1, 6.30.
Royal Air Force Town Show: parachute displays, memorial Battle of Britain flights, RAF police dog demonstration and static exhibits; Western Lawns, Eastbourne, today until Aug 11, 10 to 6.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,118



ACROSS
1 Word for word a son of brave chap (8).
6 Phone, to raise spirits (4,2).
9 It makes a change, putting one in a cage (6).
10 Stop pretty girl endlessly going with low character at the races (3,3).
11 Dance beloved by junior officer (8).
12 Leader of small state is pressed hard, initially (16).
13 Eccentric about money paid out (5).
14 Agricultural property after dam's rebuilt (9).
17 Side given financial acknowledgments? Must be joking! (9).
19 One father in work as a detective... (5).
20 ... and another kept going to sea (6).
23 The work-force is on holiday - don't interfere... (5,3).
24 ... with it, until today (2-2-4).
25 Without a cover, too (6).
26 A king, in brief time of yore (6).
27 Recklessly hit and run (8).

DOWN
2 Cover up European plant - one got lost (7).
3 Bernedean changes involving film certificate for "High Concise Crossword, page 10

Books - paperback

The Deputy Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week.

FICTION
The House of Spirits, by Isabel Allende (Black Swan, £3.95)
Fighting Down to Camelot, by David Benedictus (Futura, £3.50)
A Foreign Invasion, by Stephen Kennedy (Sceptre, £3.50)
Suicide Exposed, by Cyril Harv (Constable, £3.50)
Happy Families, by Nigel Gray (Futura, £3.95)

NON-FICTION
Westminster Blues, by Julian Critchley (Futura, £1.95)
The Home of One Hundred Trades, by Peter Robert Burnett (Everyman, £4.95)
O's Legacy, by Helene Hanff (Futura, £1.95)
The Cruel Way, by Elna K. Mallart (Virago, £4.50)
How to Have a Life-Style, by Quentin Crisp (Corgi Woolf, £2.95) NS

Anniversaries

Births: Sir Granville Bantock, composer; London, 1856; Lord Leakey, archaeologist and anthropologist; Kabete, Kenya, 1903; Ralph Borscha, a founder of the United Nations; Nobel Peace Laureate 1950, Detroit, 1904.
Deaths: Caroline, consort of George IV, London, 1821; Joseph-Marie Jacquard, weaver, Oullin, France, 1834; Aleksandr Blok, poet; Leningrad, 1921; Kozsantasi Stanislawski, founder of the Moscow Art Theatre, Moscow, 1938; Sir Rabindranath Tagore, writer, Nobel laureate 1913, Calcutta, 1941.

Motor cycle safety

Suggestions on how to make motor cycle riding safer are being invited by the Department of Transport. It has issued a booklet which it hopes will help to cut the present death rate. At present an average of 70 riders die in accidents each day. *Safer Motorcycling: DoT, 2 Marsham St, London SW1P 3EB (01 212 3434).*

Tower Bridge

Tower Bridge will be raised today at 2pm and 6.15pm.

Portfolio Gold

11 W for any reason The Times Portfolio Gold rules are as follows: 1. The Times Portfolio Gold is a normal way of investing your money. 2. The Times Portfolio Gold is a diversified fund. 3. The Times Portfolio Gold is a long-term investment. 4. The Times Portfolio Gold is a low-risk investment. 5. The Times Portfolio Gold is a high-growth investment. 6. The Times Portfolio Gold is a high-yield investment. 7. The Times Portfolio Gold is a high-dividend investment. 8. The Times Portfolio Gold is a high-capital investment. 9. The Times Portfolio Gold is a high-income investment. 10. The Times Portfolio Gold is a high-liquidity investment. 11. The Times Portfolio Gold is a high-flexibility investment.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.58	2.58
Belgium Fr	22.50	21.50
Canada \$	66.70	65.10
Denmark Kr	2.18	2.18
Finland Mk	7.81	7.31
France Fr	16.53	16.53
Germany Dm	1.59	1.59
Greece Dr	215.00	202.00
Hong Kong \$	11.80	11.30
India Rupee	1.48	1.48
Italy Lira	2285.00	2085.00
Japan Yen	241.00	227.00
Netherlands Gld	3.63	3.63
Norway Kr	11.37	10.77
Portugal Esc	224.00	212.00
Spain Ptas	166.50	155.50
Sweden Kr	10.89	10.14
Switzerland Fr	2.58	2.46
USA \$	1.54	1.47
Yugoslavia Dnr	645.00	595.00

Weather forecast

A deep depression to the SW of Ireland will move steadily NE. Frontal troughs will cross most of Britain.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be cloudy with outbreaks of rain heavy and prolonged at times. Wales and western districts of England will also be mainly cloudy with outbreaks of rain, turning showery later.

London, SE England, E Anglia: Sunny start, becoming cloudy with showers later. Wind S fresh becoming SW strong. Warm, max 25c (77).

Central S, E England, E Midlands, Channel: Bright start, becoming cloudy with showers. Wind S strong becoming W strong. Warm, max 24c (75).

W Midlands, Central N, NE England: Rather cloudy, outbreaks of rain turning showery. Wind south becoming westerly strong. Near normal, max 20c (68).

SW England, Wales: Mainly cloudy with outbreaks of rain. Wind S strong becoming W strong to gale. Max 18c (64).

The Midlands: MI: Roadworks N and S of junction 20 (Lutterworth); junctions 44 and 45. MI: Contraction between junctions 4 and 5; southbound exit sliproad and northbound access closed at junction 6. M25: Works at Barton Bridge between junctions 1 and 3; avoid.

Wales and the West: M4: Lane closures in both directions between junctions 44 and 45. M5: Outside lanes of northbound carriageway closed between junctions 4 and 5. A38: N and southbound carriageway lane closures at Haldon Hill.

NW England, Lake Dist, is of NW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland: mainly cloudy, outbreaks of rain, prolonged at times. Wind S strong becoming E strong. Max 17c (63).

Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: Cloudy, outbreaks of rain, some heavy and prolonged. Wind E or SE strong. Max 15c (61).

Argyll, NW Scotland: Cloudy, outbreaks of rain, some heavy and prolonged. Wind east backing north strong locally gale. Max 15c (59).

Orkney, Shetland: Mainly cloudy, rain spreading from the S. Wind SE fresh becoming E strong. Max 14c (57).

Outlook for tomorrow: drier with showers dying out. Rather cool and windy.

Sun rise: 5:33 am
Sun sets: 8:39 pm
Moon rise: 7:05 am
Moon sets: 9:43 pm
First Quarter: August 13

Lighting-up time

London 8.05 pm to 5.04 am
Bristol 9.19 pm to 5.14 am
Edinburgh 9.36 pm to 5.00 am
Manchester 8.24 pm to 5.08 am
Penzance 9.26 pm to 5.31 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c. cloud; f. fair; r. rain; s. sun.
Belfast c 16.6f (61.9c) s 17.6f (63.7c)
Birmingham 18.8f (69.6c) s 19.0f (66.2c)
Bristol 16.6f (61.9c) s 17.0f (62.6c)
Cardiff 17.8f (64.0c) s 18.1f (64.6c)
Edinburgh 15.2f (59.4c) s 15.5f (60.0c)
Glasgow 15.2f (59.4c) s 15.5f (60.0c)

Our address

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MOON TODAY



High Tides

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	3.49	6.9	4.04	6.9
Aberdeen	2.57	4.1	3.24	4.0
Avermout	9.13	12.2	9.25	12.5
Belfast	12.37	3.4	1.00	3.0
Cardiff	8.58	11.2	8.11	11.2
Devonport	7.47	5.0	7.39	5.3
Dover	12.39	6.2	1.00	6.5
Falmouth	7.2	4.6	7.35	4.1
Glasgow	2.18	4.5	3.10	3.9
Harwich	1.33	3.9	1.51	3.8
Highland	1.5	3.9	1.22	4.1
Hull	8.10	7.1	8.40	7.0
Liverpool	7.57	8.6	8.12	8.0
Lough	4.28	5.3	4.53	5.3
Loughs	11.33	2.4	2.06	4.8
London	12.57	9.1	1.17	8.9
Lowestoft	11.23	2.4	2.06	4.8
Malin	12.57	9.1	1.17	8.9
Millford Haven	6.13	6.6	6.26	6.8
Newquay	8.23	6.0	8.02	6.8
Oban	7.58	7.51	7.51	7.51
Penzance	6.45	5.1	5.58	5.4
Portsmouth	8.12	4.9	8.12	4.9
Portsmouth	1.04	4.3	1.31	4.4
Shoreham	12.51	5.8	1.21	5.9
Southampton	12.53	6.1	1.24	6.1
Swansea	8.20	8.8	8.39	8.0
Tees	3.23	6.2	5.52	5.1
Yarm	10.1	6.7	10.1	6.7

Around Britain

EAST COAST	Sun Rain	hrs in	C	F	W	S	W	S	F	W	S
Scotland	10.1	.00	19	68	sunny						
Strathclyde	10.4	.02	20	68	sunny						
Crozier	9.5	.08	20	68	sunny						
Lowestoft	9.5	.33	21	70	sunny						
Cardiff	13.7	.21	70	sunny							
Malin	x	x	20	68	bright						
Highland	x	x	20	68	bright						
South Coast			18	64	sunny						
Falmouth	12.3	.16	64	sunny							
Reading	12.8	.04	16	64	sunny						
Poole	9.5	.02	18	64	sunny						
Swansea	11.3	.08	18	64	sunny						
Weymouth	9.8	.02	18	64	sunny						
Exmouth	7.7	.17	64	bright							
Teignmouth	7.8	.17	64	bright							
Torquay	7.1	.18	64	bright							
Bognor R	13.1	.18	64	bright							
Southsea	12.1	.18	64	bright							
Shetland	11.7	.17	68	sunny							
Southwest	10.9	.18	68	sunny							
Poole	9.5	.02	18	64	sunny						
Swansea	11.3	.08	18	64	sunny						
Weymouth	9.8	.02	18	64	sunny						
Exmouth	7.7	.17	64	bright							
Teignmouth	7.8	.17	64	bright							
Torquay	7.1	.18	64	bright							
Bognor R	13.1	.18	64	bright							
Southsea	12.1	.18	64	bright							
Shetland	11.7	.17	68	sunny							
Southwest	10.9	.18	68	sunny							
Poole	9.5	.02	18	64	sunny						
Swansea	11.3	.08	18	64	sunny						
Weymouth	9.8	.02	18	64	sunny						
Exmouth	7.7	.17	64	bright							
Teignmouth	7.8	.17	64	bright							
Torquay	7.1	.18	64	bright							
Bognor R	13.1	.18									

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1233.7 (-32.1) FT-SE 100 1540.4 (-21.2) Bargains 22439 USM (Datastream) 121.39 (-0.02) THE POUND US Dollar 1.4775 (-0.0055) W German mark 3.0725 (-0.0292) Trade-weighted 71.3 (-0.5)

Ten leave Quilter

Quilter Goodison, the stockbroking firm headed by the Stock Exchange's chairman, Sir Nicholas Goodison, yesterday lost 10 members of its international division to ARK Securities, a new firm set up to act as agent for BNP.

Trust battle

Barclays de Zoete Wedd has launched a campaign for control of the Philip Hill Investment Trust, BZW, which speaks for 56 per cent of the shareholders, is unhappy about the performance of the trust.

GKN rises

GKN, the automotive components manufacturer, lifted its pretax profits from £70.5 million to £74.5 million in the year to June 30.

Coke loses out

Coca-Cola, the soft drink giant, has cancelled an agreement to buy Dr Pepper Company from Forstmann Little for \$470 million (£317 million) after a Federal judge last week blocked the proposed acquisition.

Healthy profit

Smith & Nephew, the medical and health care group, lifted interim pretax profits by 22 per cent to £37 million.

Flying chance

European Helicopter Industries, a consortium comprising Britain's Westland and the Italian company Augusta, is one of four companies being considered to supply a new helicopter for the Canadian armed forces.

Charter view

Charter Consolidated, the mining equipment and industrial group, reassured shareholders that the company would not be seriously affected by sanctions on the South African government.

Shares halted

FII Group's shares were suspended yesterday, pending a possible takeover bid by an unlisted company.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table with 2 columns: Stock Name, Price/Change. Includes New York, Dow Jones, Tokyo, Nikkei Dow, Hang Seng, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Commerzbank, Brussels, General, Paris, CAC, SKA General, London closing prices.

INTEREST RATES

Table with 2 columns: Instrument, Rate. Includes London Bank Base, 3-month Interbank, 3-month eligible bills, buying rate, Prime Rate, Federal Funds, 3-month Treasury Bills, 30-year bonds.

CURRENCIES

Table with 2 columns: Location, Rate. Includes London, New York, DM, SFR, FF, Yen, Index.

Boots funds US deal with record £378m placing

Boots, the retail chemist and pharmaceuticals group, yesterday unveiled a \$555 million (£375 million) acquisition in the United States. It has bought the Flint division of Baxter Travenol Laboratories and will pay for the acquisition with a record £377.6 million vendor placing of 184.2 million shares.

The deal also breaks new ground in that it offers ordinary shareholders the right to subscribe for all the shares on a minimum one-for-four basis.

The previous record vendor placing was Dee Corporation's £350 million issue last June, which had a 75 per cent clawback facility for ordinary shareholders.

The news of the acquisition and placing started to leak into the stock market on Monday, depressing the Boots share price from 253p to a closing price yesterday of 213p, down 16p on the day.

Stockley profits up 290%

Stockley, the property company set up in 1983 by Mr Elliott Bernard, Mr Jacob Rothschild and Mr Stuart Lipton, has increased its pretax profits for the half-year to May 31 by 290 per cent to £4.45 million.

The figure includes rents from the £61.5 million acquisition of the European Ferries portfolio in May 1985 as well as £4.8 million profits from its 26.5 per cent stake in Stock Conversion, the property company.

The shares were sold to the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company for £100 million following P&O's bid for Stock Conversion.

The money is being used to partly repay £66 million debt and the rest will be placed in short-term investments.

Stockley still has a commercial paper facility worth £100 million left untapped.

The second half figures will show an extraordinary gain of £13.4 million from the Stock Conversion sale.

The company has a 4.5 million sq ft development programme. Stockley is part of the consortium redeveloping Paternoster Square in the Square Mile, which was purchased for £66.25 million net.

And it is also developing the 2.5 million sq ft Stockley Park business park near Heathrow airport, where the first lettings have been agreed.

Stockley is still not paying a dividend but says this may change at the year end. Earnings per share have risen from 0.98p to 1.02p.

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Table with 2 columns: Name, Price/Change. Includes RISES: Sidney Banks, WSL Hldgs, Saurtel Horn, BPOC, Kleinwort, Property Secs, D.J. Alams. FALLS: GKN, Lucas, Hawker Siddeley, Vickers, TI Group, AE, Boots, Plessey, GEC, Royal Insurance, B.P., Rofime, Satchi, General Accident.

GOLD

Table with 2 columns: Location, Price. Includes London, New York, Comex.

NORTH SEA OIL

Table with 2 columns: Name, Price. Includes Brent (Sept), Brent (Oct).



Derek Roberts: Bid decision harmful to UK economy because it would limit competitiveness abroad.

RHM stake buyer may join board

Ranks Hovis McDougall, the British bakery group, may offer a seat on the board to its newest shareholder, Goodman Fielder, Australia's largest food business.

Last week Goodman Fielder picked up a strategic 14.6 per cent shareholding in Ranks at a cost of £107 million, sparking off speculation that it was preparing to launch a full-scale bid.

But yesterday Mr Pat Goodman, the chairman of Goodman Fielder, emerged from a 1 1/2-hour meeting with Sir Peter Reynolds, the Ranks chairman, and Mr Stanley Metcalfe, the chief executive, and said: "I think they understand the commercial realities of the situation. I haven't directly asked for a boardroom seat but we need to take

the best advantage of our investment in their business and to do that you need to exercise some influence at the top. I am sure they understand the position. They are going away to think about the whole relationship."

A Ranks spokesman said: "There was an exchange of views. We cannot go further than that."

Mr Goodman, who said he had no plans to make a bid for Ranks, said: "I had a courteous reception which I had expected. We agreed on a number of points and had a lot in common."

Mr Goodman was understood to have argued that close trading ties between the two companies could stimulate trade in the European Economic Community.

Report calls for merger of System X

By Teresa Poole

The General Electric Company's proposed £1.3 billion takeover of Plessey was blocked yesterday by Mr Paul Channon, the Trade and Industry Secretary, who accepted in full the majority recommendation of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission that the acquisition would be against the public interest.

However, the MMC report also recognized that there would be considerable cost advantages from the rationalization of the two companies' System X digital telephone exchange businesses and that these benefits could be obtained without a full merger of the two companies.

It said rationalization would give better opportunities for exports and would improve the prospect of financing the development of future exchange systems.

The majority view concluded that the benefits of a merger to the System X business would not outweigh the adverse effects in other market areas and the loss of competition for defence electronic equipment.

Mr Derek Roberts, joint deputy managing director at GEC, said the decision was harmful to the British economy because it would inhibit the formation of a company better able to compete in world markets for telecommunications and electronics.

The Commission's report suggests that, even without a takeover, competitive pressures in the market for exchanges would lead either to a sale by GEC or Plessey of its System X interests to the other, the setting up of a jointly owned company, or the rationalization of both companies' interests according to a joint plan.

But the prospect of imminent agreement seemed remote yesterday with neither company interested in selling its stake in System X. Mr James Prior, GEC's chairman said: "The combination of GEC's and Plessey's public switching and associated transmission businesses

would have been achieved had GEC's bid been successful, but in the present circumstances, GEC can do no more than express its willingness to acquire Plessey's activities in this area if terms can be agreed." He said he regretted Mr Channon's decision.

Plessey was equally forthright about its future involvement in System X. A spokesman said: "We would be happy to take over GEC's System X interests, if the price is right. But that depends on GEC."

"We have been trying to get an agreement on System X since 1982. We shall continue to pursue a sensible agreement which must reflect Plessey's leadership of System X development."

GEC had argued that its merger with Plessey would bring significant benefits to Britain through improved competitiveness abroad.

But the majority report found that, except in the case of System X, it could not see that there would be benefits as a result of the increased size of the merged company which might not be available to the two companies separately.

It also agreed with the Ministry of Defence that a takeover would appreciably diminish existing and potential competition in many areas of defence electronics where payments to GEC and Plessey last year amounted to £1.7 billion.

This would lead to increased costs — estimated at up to £840 million over ten years by the MoD — and reduce the possibility of technical innovative choice as a joint company would be unlikely to pursue two competing lines of research. The MMC also believed that a takeover would possibly reduce the total amount of business coming into the UK because the number of companies available for international collaboration would be one less.

In a weak stock market, GEC's shares yesterday fell 6p to 190p and Plessey lost 8p to 198p.

Kenneth Fleet, page 19

Bestobell 'on course for £9.8m'

By Clare Dobie

Bestobell, which is fighting off an unwanted bid from Meggitt Holdings, launched a strong defence yesterday, forecasting nearly doubled profits of not less than £9.8 million for the year to December 31.

Mr David Ingman, the chairman of Bestobell, said Meggitt's bid failed to recognize the recovery taking place and the effect of recent management changes. He argued that Meggitt's management structure was unsuited to Bestobell's international spread of businesses and that there was little overlap.

The defence document, released yesterday, also revealed doubled interim profits of £4.6 million before tax and extraordinary charges of £809,000.

The full-year forecast of £9.8 million is about £2.5 million higher than analysts had been expecting for the current year and compares with a profit of £5.1 million reported for 1985.

Meggitt is offering four shares for every one in Bestobell, valuing each share at 520p with Meggitt at 130p, down 2p yesterday. There is a cash alternative valuing each share at 500p.

Bestobell's shares fell 2p to 507p yesterday.

Trusts poised for change

By Lawrence Lever

A comprehensive review of the regulation and content of unit trusts was published by the Government yesterday in a move which will bring considerable changes to the way in which trusts are marketed and the nature of their underlying investments.

The review, in the form of a consultative document published by the Department of Trade and Industry was described by the Unit Trust Association as a milestone in the industry's history, representing the first time that all the regulations concerning unit trusts had been published in one document.

The document proposes the introduction of four new types of unit trust, broadening the limits on existing investments and giving trusts greater flexibility to hedge against currency fluctuations. The principal proposed changes include:

- Doubling the limit for investment in unquoted companies from 5 to 10 per cent, allowing unit trusts broader use of traded options and, for the first time, to use financial futures.
• Allowing unit trusts, also for the first time, to engage in a limited amount of gearing. Funds will be allowed to borrow up to 10 per cent of the value of the fund.

The liquidation of all unit trusts below £1 million in size. According to UTA estimates there are at present about 50 unit trusts in this category.

Introducing four new types of unit trusts, namely money market, property, commodity and mixed trusts, the latter having the facility to invest in a number of different sectors.

Replacing the present system of quoting bid and offer prices for unit trusts with a mid market price quote, with disclosure of the charges.

Allowing unit trusts to go liquid where necessary.

Ex-Thorn chief to head Oceonics

By Alison Eadie

Mr Peter Laister, chairman and chief executive of Thorn EMI until July last year, has been appointed chairman of Oceonics, the troubled marine electronics and information technology group.

Oceonics yesterday announced a pretax loss of £8.7 million in the year to March 31, compared with an £3 million profit the previous year. It was hit hard by the downturn in oil-related offshore business and incurred losses of more than £3 million at Comap, the

offshore survey company which has now been sold. The company has reduced its exposure to the offshore industry. Of the £7.25 million operating loss, £2.58 million resulted from now sold or discontinued businesses.

The loss of the continuing businesses contained a £1.5 million provision for surplus equipment and a high proportion of central costs.

Group borrowings were slashed by the sale of defence businesses, which produced an extraordinary profit of £5.2 million. A return to profit in the current year is considered most unlikely, but the company hopes to be back in the black in 1987-88. No dividend is being paid.

Mr Laister said yesterday that Oceonics' problems were not over, but had been contained. He said his appointment would relieve the board and particularly Mr Bob Aird, who now becomes deputy chairman and chief executive, of external pressures and allow them to concentrate on growth opportunities.

Oceonics shares fell 3p to 18p.

Memcom alters terms

By Our City Staff

Badly hit by the collapse of its Middle East markets, Memcom has revealed that last year's loss topped £2.8 million compared with a £2 million profit of £1 million. The board says the level of orders outstanding continues to be insufficient to enable it to forecast a return to profit this year.

The rights issue is being underwritten by two companies which have close trading ties with Memcom. With the share price now at 23p — compared with a one-time high of 310p — the new shares are likely to be left in the hands of the underwriters.

Memcom, which needed £2.3 million to help cut its borrowings, planned a rights issue of ordinary and loan stock at 40p a share. But the market price of the existing shares has fallen sharply and the terms are being revised to 30p.

Big hopes for new BAE turbo-prop airliner

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Britain's new £170 million propeller driven airliner yesterday made its maiden flight amid renewed speculation that the Russians may build up to 800 of the aircraft under licence.

The 73-seater plane, called the advanced turbo prop (ATP) is claimed by British Aerospace to be one of the most economical short-haul airliners in the world. It has taken two years to develop and marks another milestone in the UK production of turbo prop airliners that began in the early 1950s with the Viscount.

As the aircraft took off from BAE's Woodford factory near Manchester in driving rain, and landed two hours later in a 30 mph crosswind, Sir Austin Pearce, chairman of

BAE, confirmed that negotiations were proceeding with the Soviet Union but he declined to put a time scale on the discussions.

The prospect of a deal with the Russians, who could build up to £7 billion worth of ATPs, for use on internal flights, was first revealed last September but now appears to be improving. BAE could earn £35 million in licence fees from the deal, which would cover 20 per cent of development costs.

The Department of Trade and Industry has raised no objections to the licence deal, and BAE says that the Soviet Union would gain no technological advantage.

Following the American embargo on sales of technology to the Russians, one stumbling block may be the 20-25 per cent US content of the ATP. The aircraft is powered by Pratt & Whitney engines, fitted with new high technology six blade propellers designed and manufactured by BAE in association with the Hamilton Standard division of Pratt's parent company, United Technologies. But privately BAE executives are hoping that improving US/USSR relations could make the deal possible.

Sir Austin said of the Russian talks: "It is a slow process; it always is and it could take years to achieve. If it is successful, the Soviet deal would mark the first major civil aircraft contract with the West for 40 years."

Advertisement for AmBrit International PLC. Includes text: 'Permission has been granted by the Council of The Stock Exchange to deal in the Unlisted Securities Market of The Stock Exchange in the undermentioned securities. It is emphasized that no application has been made for these securities to be admitted to listing.' AmBrit International PLC (name changed from Steusa Romana PLC on 11th July 1986) Registered in England No 170786. Issue of £2,867,367 of 9 per cent Convertible Unsecured Loan Stock 1996 at par. by way of rights to holders of Ordinary (Restricted Voting) Shares of 25p each on the register of members on 22nd July, 1986. Details of the above securities are contained in the new issue cards circulated in the Exel Unlisted Securities Market Service. Copies of the Circular relating to this issue may be obtained from the addresses below up to 28th August, 1986 and also, for collection only, from the Company Announcements Office, The Stock Exchange, London EC2 during the two business days following the date of publication of this notice. AmBrit International PLC 34 Park Street, London W1Y 3PF. Henderson Crosthwaite & Co. 154/200 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4LL. 7th August, 1986.

WALL STREET

New York (Agencies) - erased much of the rally Shares retracted in early trading triggered by stronger oil prices. Oils fell on profit-taking. Tuesday's late decline which

Table with columns for stock symbols and prices. Includes entries for AMR, ASA, Allied Signal, Allied Sira, etc.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Young Turks lead the hunt for ready assets

The property sector is suffering from bid fever against the background of a falling stock market and the City's new aversion to the takeover mania that has swept through other sectors recently. The latest entrants to the takeover stakes are Mountleigh Estates and Greycoat Group. Both stocks trade at a premium to asset value, giving the companies highly rated paper which they can use to buy a ready-made asset base.

TEMPUS

GKN plunges 56p as setback stuns market

GKN's woes from the front line of British manufacturing wrecked almost as much havoc on the stock market yesterday as did ICT's similarly gloomy statement last month. GKN said there had been a sharp economic decline in the second quarter as a result of which it now expects profits for the full year to be similar to last year's. This warning stunned investors, as profits had been expected to rise by about £20 million to about £153 million, and GKN's share price fell by 56p to 290p in a matter of hours, reducing the company's stock market value by £133 million to £689 million.

BASE LENDING RATES

Table listing various banks and their base lending rates, such as ABN at 10.00%, Adam & Company at 10.00%, etc.

APPOINTMENTS

International Factors: Mr BJ Abbott and Mr WD Goode have been made executive directors. Scapa Group: Mr RW Goodall becomes executive chairman and Mr J Haythornthwaite is named as worldwide chief executive.

CANADIAN PRICES

Table listing Canadian prices for various commodities and currencies, including Alberta, Alberta, etc.

COMPANY NEWS

CONTINENTAL ASSETS TRUST: Interim figures to June 30, 1986: gross revenue £132,000, expenses £30,000, tax £16,000, earnings £26,000, eps 0.22p, nav 111.05p. BRITISH ALCAN ALUMINIUM: For the six months to June 30, with figures in £ millions, turnover was 327 (321.9), operating profit 26.3 (33.7), interest 8.9 (10.8), pretax profit 17.4 (22.9) and tax 1.3 (2.1).

MARKING NAMES

MARKING NAMES: Dividends payable in Canada and in the United States on or before July 23 and up to and including July 29 are valued at 46.09p per Canadian dollar and 64.86p per US dollar. INDEPENDENT NEWS-PAPERS: The dividend for the six months to June 30 is 4p (3.3p). With figures in IR£000, trading profit was 3,558 (3,010), depreciation 807 (773), pretax profit 2,751 (2,238), tax 616 (558), and earnings per share 9.3p (7.1p).

Communication is not simply sending a message... it is creating true understanding—swiftly, clearly and precisely.



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Hitachi's wide-ranging technologies in communication (from left to right): optical fibers, optical IC, advanced telephone exchange system, and satellite communication.

We link technology to human needs. We believe that Hitachi's advanced technologies will result in systems and products that are functionally sophisticated but easy to use. Our goal in communications—and transportation, energy and consumer electronics as well—is to build products and systems that will improve the quality of life the world around.



STOCK MARKET REPORT

Equities lose almost £4bn after GKN profits warning

By Michael Clark

Share prices went into a nosedive yesterday, suffering their biggest-ever one-day fall following a profits warning from Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, one of Britain's biggest manufacturing companies.

Almost £4 billion was wiped from the value of quoted shares as the FT 100 fell 21.2 points to 1,540.4. The market has been in a highly nervous state and the interim figures from GKN proved all too much for investors.

The broader-based FT-SE 100 also closed sharply lower on the day, with a fall of 21.2 points to 1,540.4. The market has been in a highly nervous state and the interim figures from GKN proved all too much for investors.

The share price responded accordingly, tumbling 58p to 118.50. The FT 100 fell 21.2 points to 1,540.4. The market has been in a highly nervous state and the interim figures from GKN proved all too much for investors.

288p and wiping more than £133 million from its stock market capitalization. The effect on the other big industrials was predictable. Hawker Siddeley fell by 26p to 491p and Lucas Industries by 14p to 516p.

Analysts are expecting pretax profits to rise by £1.5 million to £20 million. Evered Holdings, which has just lost its battle for control of McKechnie Bros, continues to speak for about 20 per cent of the shares.

The Government's decision to block GEC's £1,900 million bid for Plessey also did little to help confidence. Plessey fell 8p to 198p, while GEC slipped 6p to 190p.

that the bid would be blocked, but, nevertheless, had relished the prospect of all that extra cash flooding back into the market from GEC's huge cash mountain.

With so much bad news around, the market-makers were having a poor time of it as they continued to mark share prices sharply lower. But there were a few signs of blue creeping in towards the close and some dealers took the view that the fall had been overdone.

Nevertheless, the outlook remains bleak. Gilt was also in retreat, following Tuesday's disappointing money supply figures which have again delayed the prospect of another cut in interest rates.

Prices at the longer end of the market were 2 1/2 down at the close. The Treasury's composites were in a spin and continued to lose ground throughout the day.

Commercial Union fell 5p to 293p, General Accident 23p to 78 1/2p, Guardian Royal Exchange 35p to 80 1/4p, Royal

Insurance 25p to 79 1/2p, London United Investments 3p to 20 1/2p and Sun Alliance 25p to 66 1/2p.

The insurance brokers also suffered a mark-down with CE Heath 5p lighter at 50 1/2p, Minet Holdings 4p at 24 1/2p, Hogg Robinson 3p at 30 1/2p, Sedgwick Group 2p at 35 1/2p, Stewart Wriglesworth 3p at 43 1/2p and Willis Faber 2p at 40 1/2p.

But the clearing banks spent a quiet session ahead of the interim figures, later today from Barclays, the last of the big four to report. Analysts are still expecting Barclays to weigh in with pretax profits of £460 million for the first six months, compared with £410 million last time.

Barclays slipped 10p to 47 1/2p, as National Westminster closed 5p to 50 1/2p, Midland firmed 2p to 54 1/2p, while Lloyds was unchanged at 38 1/2p.

The merchant banks presented a steadier picture, although some prices were off their best at the close. There were gains of 2p in Henry Ansbacher at 7 1/2p, Guinness Peat at 7 1/2p and Hill Samuel at 35 1/2p, while Kleinwort Benson rose 1p to 73 1/2p and Mercury International a similar amount to 65 1/2p.

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

Double-edged blow for Weinstock

Whatever the merits of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's majority finding against GEC - and some of them are dubious (bully for Mr Baillieu) - it is a major practical and psychological blow for GEC, matched only by the elation of Plessey, which has been saved from Lord Weinstock's clutches by the persuasive powers of the Ministry of Defence and a revitalized, determined and unusually subtle Plessey board.

Though Paul Channon, the Secretary of State, has accepted the majority judgment, the Department of Trade and Industry must be dismayed by the block put on the restructuring of a vital industry.

There is one avenue left open for GEC and Plessey to explore - the "but" in the Commission's "No, but Minister" judgment - namely "some suitable rationalization of System X."

This the Commission is content to leave to the mutual interest of the two companies to bring about. It will surely need more than that and the Government, if it is serious about the future of the telecommunications supply industry, will have to address itself to the problems.

The point is made by what the companies had to say yesterday. The word from Plessey was: "We shall continue to run our profitable and successful System X business. In the longer term we have made it clear we would like to combine our's and GEC's System X interests. That remains our ambition."

By buying GEC's interests? "We would be happy to take over GEC's System X interests, if the price is right. But that depends on GEC. In the meantime, we have a separate and profitable business."

A joint venture? "We have been trying to get an agreement on System X since 1982. We shall continue to pursue a sensible agreement which must reflect Plessey's leadership of System X development."

But a sale to GEC? "We are the leader and need to have this reflected in any arrangement on System X in the future."

At GEC Jim Prior, the chairman, said GEC could do no more than show its willingness to buy the Plessey public switching interests if terms could be agreed. GEC accepts negotiations between the two companies will have to be re-started, a joint venture still being an option.

The "no" leaves GEC in a difficult situation where dismay at the latest turn of events might degenerate into defeatism. With one or two exceptions - telecommunications clearly and perhaps office systems - GEC is essentially a large, mature business in which rapid growth is not easy to achieve.

GEC's enviable financial performance is the result of Lord Weinstock's determination to follow one guiding star: performance measured by earnings per share. But his critics, many and variously motivated, have been quick to point out the two main pillars of GEC's earnings record: highly profitable, cost-plus defence contracts and high yields from the company's enormous financial reserves. As Sir John Clark would often say: "I am a manager, Arnold is a banker."

With interest and inflation rates declining and the age of cost-plus work coming rapidly to an end, GEC needs to travel in a new direction. The company, and Lord Weinstock in particular, also badly need a major success.

Ideas and schemes have not been lacking: the AEG initiative, merging with British Aerospace and the bid for Plessey are cases in point. But for various reasons, of which lack of sufficient determination or follow-through has undoubtedly been one, GEC has not made the quantum leap.

At the same time, problems of succession and a conspicuous lack of political nous have brought clouds of grey around Stanhope Gate. Though Mrs Thatcher and Lord Weinstock like and admire each other, their dialogues have become no more than competing monologues. GEC's failures with Nimrod have not been counter-balanced in the eyes of senior politicians and civil servants by its successes with torpedoes, and GEC's alignment with the Europeans in the Westland affair did not go unnoticed.

The pressure is now on GEC to take new initiatives. It will be unfortunate for British manufacturing if Lord Weinstock is persuaded that the best course is to become an industrial conglomerate.

As for Plessey, this week's Westinghouse deal might well prove only the first of such cooperative ventures, particularly involving American interests.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table with columns: Three Month Sterling, Open, High, Low, Close, Est Val. Includes data for Sep 86, Dec 86, Mar 87, Jun 87, Sep 87, Dec 87, Mar 88, Jun 88, Sep 88, Dec 88, Mar 89, Jun 89, Sep 89, Dec 89, Mar 90, Jun 90, Sep 90, Dec 90, Mar 91, Jun 91, Sep 91, Dec 91, Mar 92, Jun 92, Sep 92, Dec 92, Mar 93, Jun 93, Sep 93, Dec 93, Mar 94, Jun 94, Sep 94, Dec 94, Mar 95, Jun 95, Sep 95, Dec 95, Mar 96, Jun 96, Sep 96, Dec 96, Mar 97, Jun 97, Sep 97, Dec 97, Mar 98, Jun 98, Sep 98, Dec 98, Mar 99, Jun 99, Sep 99, Dec 99, Mar 00, Jun 00, Sep 00, Dec 00, Mar 01, Jun 01, Sep 01, Dec 01, Mar 02, Jun 02, Sep 02, Dec 02, Mar 03, Jun 03, Sep 03, Dec 03, Mar 04, Jun 04, Sep 04, Dec 04, Mar 05, Jun 05, Sep 05, Dec 05, Mar 06, Jun 06, Sep 06, Dec 06, Mar 07, Jun 07, Sep 07, Dec 07, Mar 08, Jun 08, Sep 08, Dec 08, Mar 09, Jun 09, Sep 09, Dec 09, Mar 10, Jun 10, Sep 10, Dec 10, Mar 11, Jun 11, Sep 11, Dec 11, Mar 12, Jun 12, Sep 12, Dec 12, Mar 13, Jun 13, Sep 13, Dec 13, Mar 14, Jun 14, Sep 14, Dec 14, Mar 15, Jun 15, Sep 15, Dec 15, Mar 16, Jun 16, Sep 16, Dec 16, Mar 17, Jun 17, Sep 17, Dec 17, Mar 18, Jun 18, Sep 18, Dec 18, Mar 19, Jun 19, Sep 19, Dec 19, Mar 20, Jun 20, Sep 20, Dec 20, Mar 21, Jun 21, Sep 21, Dec 21, Mar 22, Jun 22, Sep 22, Dec 22, Mar 23, Jun 23, Sep 23, Dec 23, Mar 24, Jun 24, Sep 24, Dec 24, Mar 25, Jun 25, Sep 25, Dec 25, Mar 26, Jun 26, Sep 26, Dec 26, Mar 27, Jun 27, Sep 27, Dec 27, Mar 28, Jun 28, Sep 28, Dec 28, Mar 29, Jun 29, Sep 29, Dec 29, Mar 30, Jun 30, Sep 30, Dec 30, Mar 31, Jun 31, Sep 31, Dec 31.

RECENT ISSUES

Table with columns: Company Name, Price, Change. Includes Hughes Food, Lord Ltd, Lloyds Bank, etc.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table with columns: Market rates, Sterling spot and forward rates, Other sterling rates, Dollar spot rates.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

Table with columns: First Dealings, Last Dealings, Last Declaration, For Settlement. Includes Allied Lyons, BP, Cons Gold, Courtauld, Com Union, Cable & Wire, etc.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Table with columns: Series, Call, Put, Price. Includes Allied Lyons, BP, Cons Gold, Courtauld, Com Union, Cable & Wire, etc.

MONEY MARKET

Table with columns: Series, Call, Put, Price. Includes Jaguar, Thorn EM, Tesco, etc.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Large table with columns: Series, Call, Put, Price. Includes Allied Lyons, BP, Cons Gold, Courtauld, Com Union, Cable & Wire, etc.

MONEY MARKET

Table with columns: Series, Call, Put, Price. Includes Jaguar, Thorn EM, Tesco, etc.

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS

Table with columns: Series, Call, Put, Price. Includes Jaguar, Thorn EM, Tesco, etc.

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS

Table with columns: Series, Call, Put, Price. Includes Jaguar, Thorn EM, Tesco, etc.

GKN INTERIM RESULTS 1986

INTERIM REPORT

- Pre-tax profits up to £74.5m (1985 - £70.5m).
Earnings per share up 9.5% to 15.0p.
Interim dividend up to 5.0p from 4.5p.
Acquisition completed of majority holding in two Spanish transmissions component companies.
Phase I of £22m investment in automated production facilities commissioned at Hardy Spicer.
New engineering computer centre opened.
Acquisitions strengthen the Industrial Services sector.
Special steels and forgings businesses merged into United Engineering Steels.

Table with columns: Sales, Pre-tax profit, Earnings, Earnings per share, Dividends per share. Includes data for First Half 1986, First Half 1985, Full Year 1985.

The first half saw a further advance in pre-tax profits, reflected in the earnings per share which rose to 15.0p (against 13.7p in the 1985 first half). Although we have achieved an improvement at the half-year stage, the adverse economic and market trends which emerged during the second quarter will now make it difficult to realise an improvement for the year as a whole.

Sir Trevor Holdsworth, Chairman



The international automotive and industrial group. If you would like to receive a copy of the GKN Interim Report, 1986, please write to: GKN plc, GPR Dept, 7 Cleveland Row, London SW1A 1DB. Tel: 01-930 2424. Telex: 24911.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust information with columns for fund names, managers, and performance metrics. Includes sections for EQUITY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS, FIXED INCOME UNIT TRUST MANAGERS, and various international and specialty funds.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table listing unlisted securities with columns for company names, prices, and other financial details.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table listing investment trusts with columns for trust names, prices, and performance data.

COMMODITIES

Table listing commodity prices for various goods like metals, oil, and agricultural products.

Vertical text on the left margin: T W O I F T A C O U N T R Y

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Vertical text on the left margin: T W O I F T A C O U N T R Y

The prices in this section refer to Tuesday's trading

Financial details and notes regarding the investment trusts, including dividend information and fund objectives.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table listing financial trusts with columns for trust names, prices, and performance data.

COMMODITIES

Table listing commodity prices for various goods like metals, oil, and agricultural products.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table listing financial trusts with columns for trust names, prices, and performance data.

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

Industrial Economist Industrial Bank of Yemen Yemen Arab Republic

An Industrial Economist is required to develop and initiate systems to provide management with information enabling them to monitor, control, review and evaluate projects contained within the Bank's portfolio.

Other duties include advising on training needs for staff working within the department and also on improvements to project preparation.

Applicants should be British Citizens with a degree in Industrial Economics and ideally have an engineering background. Five to ten years' project follow-up experience, preferably gained in a developing country, is desirable, as is a knowledge of Arabic.

The appointment is on contract to ODA, on loan to the Government of the Yemen Arab Republic, for a period of two years. Salary (UK taxable) is in the range £12,625 to £20,000 pa, including an element in lieu of superannuation. A tax free Foreign Service Allowance, currently in the range £3,350 to £5,700 pa, is also payable.

The post is wholly financed by the British Government under Britain's programme of Aid to the developing countries. Other benefits normally include paid leave, free family passages, children's education allowances, free accommodation and medical attention.

For further details and application form, please apply quoting ref. AHSZ/IM/T/1, stating post concerned, and giving details of age, qualifications and experience to: Appointments Officer, Overseas Development Administration, Room 361, Abchurch Lane, London EC4A 3DF.

Closing date for applications is one month from the date of publication.

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London, Leeds and Birmingham

Full and part time adjudicators are to be appointed, under the Immigration Act 1971, to hear appeals against decisions taken in the exercise of immigration control. Applications are invited for expected full time posts, one in London and one in Leeds, and for one or two part-time posts in both London and Birmingham.

The primary qualification for appointment is the ability to conduct hearings and decide appeals impartially in a judicial spirit. Legal qualifications are essential and relevant legal experience is highly desirable. Candidates should be resident in the vicinity of the hearing centre to which appointment is made, although they may occasionally be asked to hear appeals elsewhere.

Full-time appointments are for specific periods, normally 10 years for people aged under 55. Salary is £27,996 plus £1,365 Inner London Weighting (as appropriate). The posts are pensionable.

Part-time appointments are for 12 months, renewable by agreement. The work is fee-paid (£100 a day) and the appointments are not pensionable. Part-timers are called upon as the need arises and are expected to be available for at least one day a week.

Further information and an application form (to be returned by 29 August 1986) may be obtained from Miss S. Ellis, Home Office, Room 627, Abell House, John Islip Street, London SW1P 4LH.

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Home Office

RECRUITING CO-ORDINATOR

London W2

Bain and Company is an American consulting company which works with major multi-national clients to develop their corporate strategy and improve their financial performance.

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The Recruiting Co-ordinator must be an outstanding administrator, accustomed to working to deadlines on a wide variety of projects. The ideal candidate will probably be around 25, qualified at degree level, with two years' demanding administrative experience and preferably a working knowledge of French and/or German. They will have the stamina and drive to work well under pressure and will enjoy working in a company where dedication and achievement are expected and recognised.

Applications should comprise a one-page CV and a brief covering letter. The closing date is 13 August 1986. Please reply to Elisabeth Jordan, Bain and Company, 16 Connaught Place, London W2 2ES.

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- developing guidelines for the testing of electrical installations and familiarising the owner's personnel with testing services.

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Telephone: Maidstone 671411 Ext. 3305
Reference No. C/OS 1.692
Closing Date: 22 August 1986.



Kent County Council

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You will be required to research and produce in graphic form, quality visual solutions to illustrate the fine recordings. You should therefore possess a broad knowledge of the classical music repertoire, combined with the skills of a graphic designer and have a sympathy with, and understanding of contemporary fine art, illustration, design and photography. A formal training in the areas of activity described together with a portfolio of work is required.

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For further particulars contact Caroline Holloway on Hertford 555563. Interviews to take place middle of September.



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Continued on page 26

Law Report August 7 1986

Whether a single transaction is taxable trade

Marson (Inspector of Taxes) v Morton. Before Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor. [Judgment given July 31] General commissioners were entitled as a matter of law to decide on one assessment and sale three months later of land that gave rise to a profit was not an adventure in the nature of trade assessable to Case 1 of Schedule D income tax.

Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, so held in the Chancery Division, dismissing an appeal by the Crown from the decision of Witham general commissioners in favour of Mr Brian Robert Morton and his three brothers and discharging assessments to the tax made on them for the year 1977-1978.

In June 1977 the four taxpayers purchased a piece of land for £65,000 following a recommendation from Mr L, an estate agent and property purchaser. The taxpayers provided £35,000 of the purchase money, the balance being borrowed by them at 17 per cent annual interest.

The evidence of Mr Brian Morton, a potato merchant, was that he was putting his money into an investment, had no intention of using the land, of developing it or of receiving any income from it. His intention was stated to be to make a medium to long term investment in the land, and in which he and his brothers had ever previously invested in land.

On September 15, acting on the advice of Mr L, the taxpayers sold the land for £100,000. They were assessed to income tax under Case 1 of Schedule D each in an amount of £7,345 in respect of their dealing in land. The commissioners discharged the assessments finding that the transaction was far-removed from the normal trading activity of the taxpayers and was not a venture in the nature of trade.

Mr Alan Moses for the Crown; Mr Christopher Sokol for the taxpayers. THE VICE-CHANCELLOR said that the Crown's case was that this case came within the principles set out in Edwards v Airmotive (1956) AC 149 on the facts found the only proper conclusion open to the commissioners was that the transaction was trading within the definition contained in section 526 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970.

Alternatively, the Crown said that the commissioners misdirected themselves as to the law in two respects and the case should be remitted to them for reconsideration in accordance with the law. It was well established that there was a band of cases in which different minds might come to different conclusions as to whether trading had taken place. In such cases the court had no right to interfere with a finding by commissioners.

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Easing back into the fray

Stratton Moutain, Vermont - John McEnroe won his first Grand Prix match after a seven-month absence, beating Marco Ostoja, of Yugoslavia, 7-5, 6-3 in a first-round match here.

Ostoja was a last-minute replacement for the unseeded American, Brian Teacher, who withdrew because of a back injury. The Yugoslav was a lucky loser from the qualifying tournament. "I'll take some time to get back," the world's former top player said after the match. "I thought I was tentative on my ground strokes and everything felt out of sync. The only thing that was all right was my serve."

McEnroe attributed the problems in his game to a lack of feel. "I was flat out there," he said. "I had no feel whatsoever." During the lay-off, McEnroe said he had been willing to forgo his No. 1 ranking in order to be happy. The happiness revolved, in particular, around his wife, the actress Tatum O'Neal, and his 10-week old baby, Kevin.

"Fatherhood changes your perspective. It can't help but make you more positive. And it came at a time when I most needed something positive in my life," he said. At a news conference that lasted longer than an hour, McEnroe expounded on a variety of topics, including the Press, the public, his personal life and his preparation for his resumption of play.

McEnroe, who was the fourth seed, turned his back on several questionable calls and even saluted the crowd, encouraging their applause, after a stylish forehand volley. At 4-4 in the first set, McEnroe survived the only break point on his service against Ostoja, saving it with a first service winner.

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McEnroe serves up winning quotes at a Press conference

After taking a 6-5 lead, McEnroe broke Ostoja for the first set on a backhand error from the Yugoslav. A single break of service in the sixth game of the second set gave McEnroe a 4-2 lead, and he held on to take the set 6-3. The match lasted one hour and 20 minutes.

Other first-round winners were the top seed, Ivan Lendl, of Czechoslovakia, Paul Annacone, Johan Kriek and Robert Seguso, all of the United States. But Jimmy Arias, the tenth seed, and Matt Anger, seeded No. 11, both of the United States, were unexpectedly beaten.

Results, page 30

FOOTBALL

Havelange favours seated stadiums

João Havelange, the president of FIFA, favours all-seater stadiums to fight boogalans. After inspecting Villa Park, the Hawthorns and St Andrews, prospective grounds in Birmingham's attempt to stage the 1992 Olympic Games, Havelange said: "I'm against standing room in stadiums. I think seated spectators are less liable to cause problems than spectators standing up."

Havelange, also a member of the International Olympic Committee, was accompanied to Aston Villa, West Bromwich Albion and Birmingham by Bert Millichip, the FA chairman, and Ted Croker, the secretary. Despite the clubs each possessing two terraces for standing-only spectators, the Brazilian was impressed by the standard of facilities and thought the clubs had done "an extremely good job" to try to combat boogalans, paying close attention to closed-circuit TV systems.

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Proposal to end problem of drugs

Trials and tribulations still afflict the world championships here. Last night's Grand Prix, secretary of UIPMB, the governing body, for 25 years, went home to Sweden in disgust at what he regards as the refusal to tackle the drugs question properly.

Grut wants the shooting and run to be combined. The targets, back balls set at a distance of 10 metres, should be around 14-30. Competitors, having been the 4,000 metres cross-country race (2,000 metres for women) return to the stadium at the midway point, shoot until they knock over all the targets, viewed by all the spectators, then pick up the race again.

Grut said: "My air pistol system is much cheaper and can be used by juveniles. It will give the sport much more of an impact, especially for television, which is what this sport badly needs."

About £120,000 is being spent annually on drug testing at competitions. "What an utter waste of money," he said. "I produce the air-pistol system, forget about the drugs problem and spend the money on spreading the sport, buying horses and sending out coaches."

The American drama continues. Mike Burley, ranked No. 3 in the States and their most experienced competitor, resigned the day before yesterday after learning that he had been downgraded to reserve. In his view he had been dropped because he had supported two team colleagues, Lazzlo Beres and Harvey Cain, in their attacks on the British Driggs and Bob Stoll thrown off the squad after they had taken a drug in the United States national championships last May.

Beres and Cain, here in case Driggs and Stoll were finally banned by the UIPMB, were told to return home at once. Both are threatening to sue the American Association.

The contest opened yesterday with the riding, and Driggs, the second man on, and eight refusals and several gates down before being eliminated without scoring a point. American interest in the team contest had immediately evaporated.

Club seeks money for test case

A test case to decide whether value added tax can be claimed on the sale of fishing is to come before the courts this autumn. The game fishing organization, the Salmon and Trout Association, is launching an appeal for funds to fight the case, for if Customs and Excise win, it would affect fishermen everywhere.

The claim that it is being contested was made after the sale, in 1983, by the Gwydd Hotel, of the Plas Madoec fishery on the Coeryn, in North Wales, to a local fishing club, which was suddenly faced with a demand for a £12,000 payment of VAT. The club appealed to the VAT Tribunal, and the case went to the tribunal's chairman, Lord Granchester QC, found that VAT was not payable. Customs and Excise are appealing against this decision.

The issue is complex. The VAT Tribunal judgment was to the effect that if the sale of the hotel and the fishing rights were made in the course of furtherance of the business then it would be taxable. Lord Granchester said that he was concerned with land that had not been built on, that was to say a part of the bed of the River Coery, then under the provisions of an EEC directive, no tax was chargeable despite the United Kingdom legislation.

Since then, a curious sequel occurred during the sale of fishing rights at Timbury on the Test, when a letter from the local office of Customs and Excise was read which said they did not consider VAT was payable because the sale was of the land and not the fishing rights as such. Whether this is relevant to the issue of the Plas Madoec case will not be known until the case is heard.

Contributions to the fighting fund should be sent to Plas Madoec Appeal, Salmon and Trout Association, Fishermen's Hall, London EC4 9EL.

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Wells return to top class sets a teaser for selectors

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

Ingrid Kristiansen's retrieval of the world 5,000 metres record in Stockholm two nights ago means that the Norwegian is again holder of three world records. Strictly speaking it is 10,000 metres - and one "world best" - a 2hr 21min 6sec marathon in London in 1985 - since the marathon is run on variable routes.

Nonetheless, it re-emphasizes Mrs Kristiansen's position as the queen of distance running, and it makes her an obvious favourite for the European women's 10,000 metres title, when it is run for the first time at the championships in Stuttgart in three weeks' time.

When Mrs Kristiansen took just over 45sec off her own world 10,000 metres record, with 30:13.74 in Oslo's Bislett Stadium on July 5, she said that she thought there was still another half-minute to come off the record for it to be considered on a par with the men's record of 37:13.81, set by Fernando Mamede of Portugal, in Stockholm two years ago.

Mrs Kristiansen also said that the women's 5,000 metres record, then held by Zola Budd with 14:48.07, should be around 14:30. With that in mind, Mrs Kristiansen set off for three weeks' altitude training in Switzerland, returned to Scandinavia for Tuesday's race, and took almost 11sec off Mrs Budd's mark, with 14:37.33.

It was the start of another bad night for Miss Budd who, after leading the 2,000 metres in the UK v Commonwealth match at Gateshead for almost four and a half of the five laps, she then faded badly to finish a poor fourth in 5:44.48, 15sec outside her best time.

Wells might underline his claim by racing again on Friday at the IAC meeting, which has found a new sponsor and seeming financial security with Miller Lite, who have put in £50,000 this year. Owen and Said Aouita will decide today if and in which event they will compete. But the biggest interest will be in the return of Renato Nchemiah, 10 metres hurdles world record holder, to competition after his reinstatement.



Queen of distance running: Ingrid Kristiansen after her record-breaking 5,000 metres in Stockholm

EQUESTRIANISM

Settling the account

Major Malcolm Wallace, director general of the British Equestrian Federation, is optimistic that Britain's three-day event team will collect more than \$4,000 (around £2,600) in prize money over to them as the organizers of the world championships, held in South Australia in May.

Virginia Leng, who took the individual gold medal, is owed \$3,000, while Lorna Clarke won \$1,000 for her bronze place. The financial problem arose when the championships' organizing committee suffered a major loss.

It now appears, however, that the Equestrian Federation of Australia will step in if the South Australian government does not pay off the debts - estimated at one million Australian dollars. There are other riders who have won money and I have told them we are optimistic of getting this sorted out," Major Wallace said. "I have been involved with the sport for 10 years and have never known such an unhappy saga. I would have thought they could have somehow found the money and then kept their dirty washing at home."

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SPORT

The shadow of Hadlee hangs over England

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

England start the second Test match against New Zealand at Trent Bridge today and their fifth Test of the summer...

his predecessors. I can understand, when there is so much very fast and dangerous short bowling...

drawal for the second time this season - it is his ankle this time - gives Thomas the chance to show how he is bowling...

Today's teams at Trent Bridge

ENGLAND (from): M W Gatting (captain), G A Gooch, M D Moxon, C W J Athey, D I Gower, P Willey, D R Pringle, J E Emburey, P H Edmonds, E N French, J G Thomas and G G Smeat.

Umpires: D J Constant and K E Palmer

539, consisted of Botham, Sidebottom and Allott, Botham becoming sufficiently frustrated by the problems of getting anyone out to throw one of his tantrums.

The Trent Bridge groundsman, Ron Allsopp, probably gets nearer than most to the type of pitch he aims for, and these differ according to the sort of match it is.

England have won three of the four Test matches they have played against New Zealand...

Tom Kite, fresh from a victory in the Western Open, also complimented the course. "The only way you can make a golf course difficult for today's professional is to have small, fast, undulating greens..."

ROWING

ARA against move to exclude S Africa

By Jim Railton

The three delegates of the Amateur Rowing Association (ARA) at the International Rowing Federation's (FISA) annual congress in Nottingham...

tion as being successful in keeping an apolitical stand in the sport reflected by the absence of national flags and anthems at the world championships.

The last time the Soviet Union moved to exclude South Africa from FISA was in Monte Carlo in 1977; the motion was defeated.

South Africa, despite having crews of international standard, does not enter the world championships. There appears to be a gentlemen's agreement on this course of action.

Yet the South Africans did not make many friends in this country last year when their national eight competed at the British affiliated club, Cantabrigian, in Henley Royal Regatta and won the Thames Challenge Cup.

GOLF

Another course to suit Norman style

Toledo, Ohio (Reuters) - Greg Norman, winner of the Open over the testing contours of Turnberry last month...

"With this calibre of golf course I don't see a new name popping up (as winner)," Floyd said. He has won 20 tournaments in his 20-year career.

"This course sets up perfectly for me," the long-hitting Australian said of the 6,982-yard Inverness Club course, which has many difficult parours and requires both accuracy and patience.

Tom Kite, fresh from a victory in the Western Open, also complimented the course. "The only way you can make a golf course difficult for today's professional is to have small, fast, undulating greens..."

Peete, the winner of two tournaments this year, is fifth on the tour's scoring-average list and sixth on the money list. He also did well in the two other majors he played, tying for tenth in the Masters and 24th in the US Open.

Ray Floyd, who emerged from a nine-man free-for-all to win the US Open in June, agreed with Kite about the Inverness layout, which was designed by Donald Ross, one of the most respected course architects.

Floyd, winner of two PGA championships, said Inverness was especially challenging because long rough had

been allowed to grow around its tiny greens.

"The day began well enough with the class one entries competing for the Canrose Memorial Trophy providing a spectacular sight for onlookers lined along Cowes esplanade.

The spectacle soon turned to turmoil however as the fleet, still bunched together, closed on the first gybe mark. First, hydraulics tensioning the rigging on Chris Dunning's Marionette failed.

The overseas challengers will be led by Bernhard Langer, of West Germany, who tied for third place in the Open. Seve Ballesteros, of Spain, who has been playing extremely well in Europe, and Tommy Nakajima, of Japan, who has performed well in the three previous major tournaments.

Mrs Catford, so recently married that she appeared in the programme under her maiden name, did indeed secure birdie fours at the 16th and 17th to share with Susan Shapcott (the younger of two sisters in the field) the best score of the day.

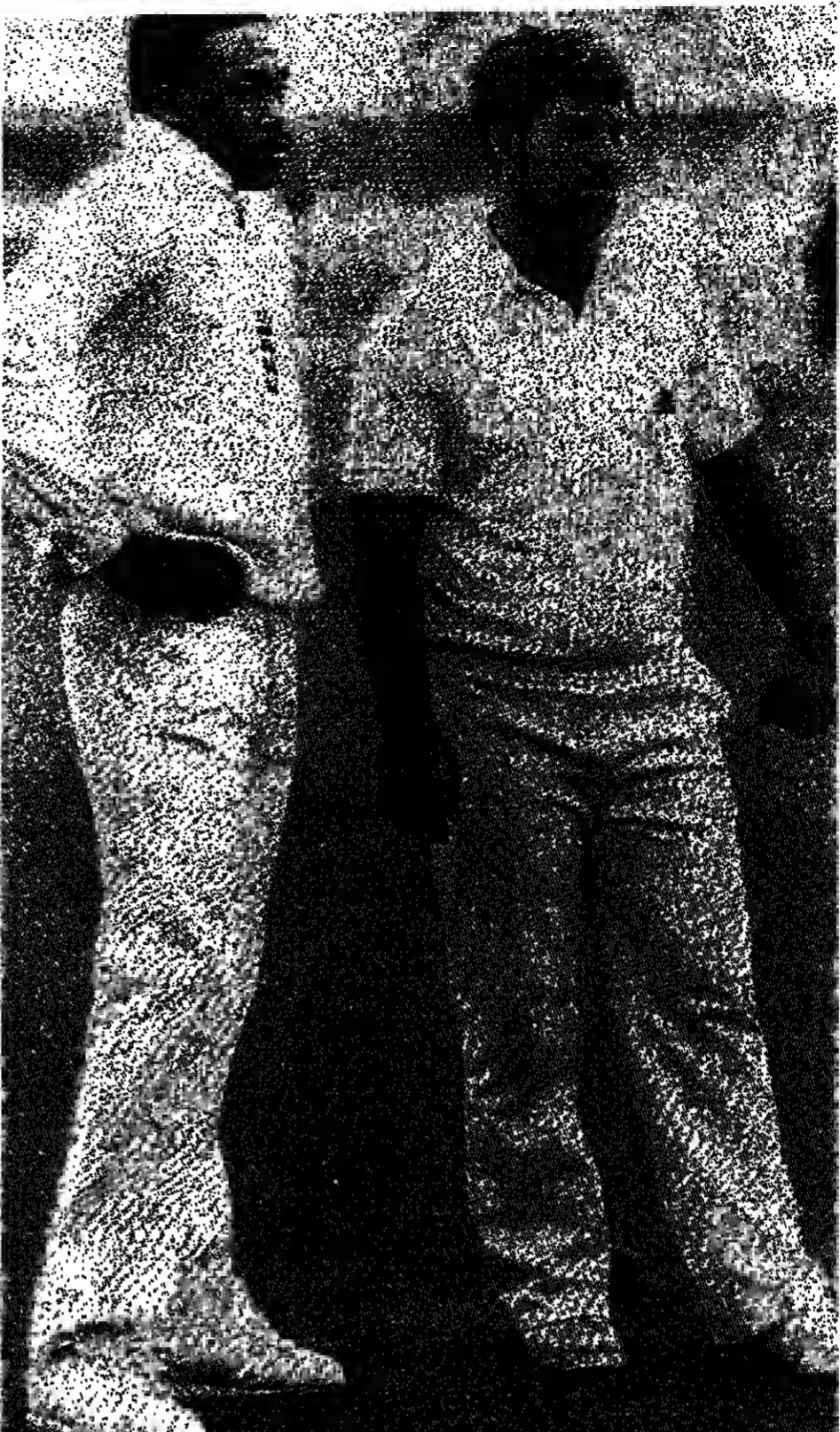
Miss Saunders had an extraordinary round, out in 43, with two shots dropped at both the first and fourth and home in 34, with a sparkling eagle at the 16th.

She reached the turn in 38, still one over, having traded a four at the short six with a birdie three on the previous hole, where she drove the 255-yard green but thereafter, she departed only once from par.

Another short hole, the 11th, frustrated her with a

LEADING SCORES: 148: S Shapcott, 73, 75, 152: S Catford, 77, 78, 153: A Saunders, 75, 78, 156; J Walker, 74, 81: S Moorhead, 78, 79; A Shapcott, 75, 80; M-J Cornelius, 77, 78, 157; L Hackney, 80, 77; L Newson, 77, 80; N Wray, 80, 77, 158; L Fincher, 78, 81; J Chesnut, 78, 82; P Smiley, 77, 81, 158; D Christian, 80, 79; S Lowe, 80, 79.

Senior's Championship (over 36 holes): 161: C Bailey, 79, 82.



England expects: Gladstone Small looks ahead to his first Test with captain Gatting yesterday

Cowes is tied in a sailor's knot

DAVID MILLER

Cowes Week has got its burgees in a bit of a twist. The most prestigious regatta of the year, with more private money, royal connections and historic privilege than any sport other than horse racing...

"I don't expect to have to pay for my racing," a Squadron member is alleged to have said recently, notwithstanding his six-figure yacht lifting gently at its mooring.

Every single member of the rubber-necking public, with the rain dripping from the hem of indecently brief shorts while the kids holler for another ice cream cone, who telephone home to tell granny they are having a wonderful time, is helping to pay for Cowes.

The arrangement by the Combined Clubs turns out to have been what is known, when a halyard becomes entangled in the upper rigging during a Force 6, as a "bunch of b-": the main sponsors being Sandhurst, the office equipment company who supply everything from paper to computers...

In pursuit of the decision makers

There is probably as much influence within the royal yacht clubs of the Squadron, as there is in the Combined Clubs, because the £70,000 or so it costs his company, including Wimbledon-style executive entertainment, makes good sense.

Richard Beales's Local Hero II, the star performer in the class three, failed to finish yesterday ending a string of four wins, a record now equalled by Roger Eglis's Frusel II in the Sonata class and Eric Williams's Dragonfly in the Dragons.

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YACHTING

Turmoil and drama take gilt off Howison win

By Barry Pickthall

The fifth day of Cowes Week, sponsored by Sandhurst, was filled with drama as one yacht was dismantled and an injured crewman on another entry having to be airlifted to hospital after being knocked out by the boom during a crash gybe.

The day began well enough with the class one entries competing for the Canrose Memorial Trophy providing a spectacular sight for onlookers lined along Cowes esplanade.

The spectacle soon turned to turmoil however as the fleet, still bunched together, closed on the first gybe mark. First, hydraulics tensioning the rigging on Chris Dunning's Marionette failed.

Moments later, the second.

Cup, was provisionally placed third last night, but faces disqualification along with Pacer following complaints from the Southampton harbour master that the two yachts allegedly interfered with the passage of SS Demeter, a large tanker entering Southampton water.

Prince Philip, competing in his last race this year, finished the day fourth on the water; but dropped to tenth on handicap. Honours in class two went to Jacobite, whose crew gained a clear win over Bathsheba (Sir Maurice Laing) with Countdown third. Three Spears, the South African entry and winner of the first three races, which has been forced to change its name to Hiker to avoid protest under Rule 26 regarding sponsored names for next week's three-quarter ton cup, was fourth.

Ernest Juer's Fair Lady, winner of Tuesday's Britannia

Results, page 30

so put Blazer into a crash gybe and he was caught by the boom as it swept across. The Press boat steered by David Lemmonius, coxon of the Yarmouth lifeboat, took the injured crewman aboard and he was later transferred by helicopter to Royal Naval Hospital, Hazar, where he was being treated last night for shock.

Ernest Juer's Fair Lady, winner of Tuesday's Britannia

SPORT IN BRIEF

No danger of boycott

Pakistan, the world and Olympic hockey champions yesterday confirmed their participation in the World Cup tournament, starting in London on October 4 (Sydney Friskin writes). Akram Shaheed, the Press attaché of the Pakistan High Commission, said that the Government of Pakistan at Islamabad had not even discussed the question of a boycott.

The Pakistan hockey squad are in training, having recently concluded a tour of Europe. They will defend their title at the Asian Games tournament in Seoul, the final of which is to be played on September 29; then they will fly to London for their first World Cup match against Argentina on October 4.

The World Cup organizers announced yesterday that Seiko had been appointed the official timers and had become the third big sponsor. Seiko will present a watch to the best player of the tournament and of the final itself.

Title on line

Duke McKenzie, the European and British flyweight champion, has been ordered to defend his European Boxing Union title against Giampiero Pinna, of Italy. McKenzie, from Croydon, stopped Charlie Magri at the Wembley Arena in May.

Wheel change

Paul Curran, England's Commonwealth cycling champion, will take part in next month's world championships in Colorado following an about-turn. The cyclist from Thornaby, aged 25, who rides for Manchester Wheelers, won two gold medals at the Edinburgh Games. He was persuaded to travel to America by a British Cycling Federation official after he had withdrawn from the six-man squad.

Cupboard bare

Worthing Bears have been forced to pull out of the Carlsberg National Basketball League after failing to find a sponsor. The Sussex club need a cash injection of around £25,000 to maintain their position as one of the country's top teams, but no one has come forward. Chris Smith, their chairman, has written to the English Basketball Association to say Worthing will cease to be members from noon today. Worthing reached the semi-finals of the national cup competition last season and took part in the Wembley play-offs in 1984-85.

Top of League

Wigan Rugby League Club could be the first to top the £1 million turnover mark in either England or Australia within the next two years. This was claimed by the Wigan vice-chairman, Maurice Lindsay, when he disclosed that the Central Park Club had record profits of £130,878 for the two seasons between 1983 and 1985, only three years after the club was on the brink of financial collapse.

Derby date

Steve Davis heads a 120-strong field chasing a £60,000 first prize in the £300,000 Dulux British Open snooker tournament, which will reach its climax at the Assembly Rooms, Derby, on March 1.

Financial reality must be faced

Hulme was thought by some to be too aggressive in his attitude last year, the first of a deal which is guaranteed and inflation protected for another two years. Hulme, himself a Royal Thames member, denies this. "I've tried so hard to play it their way," he says. "We have no intention of interfering with racing and we're not a sponsor who is going to run away."

Too many of the sponsors who have dabbled with Cowes have been joined to the organization by what is termed a snowball hitch: they have melted away in the face of hidebound traditionalism.

"Pay up and shut up" is not a slogan which is acceptable to sponsors, who are entitled to a return for their investments. There is not a de Severy born every minute. Besides which, most crewmen are already professionals in almost every sense. Yachting has to get its act together.

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